

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
REPORT ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
(25 February-5 March 1980)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1980

SUPPLEMENT No. 5 /



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**E/1980/15
E/CN.6/642**

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I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommended the following draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

I

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, in which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Affirming that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and the welfare of society and that women and men should participate on a basis of equality in the social, economic and political processes of the development of their countries,

Recognizing the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as an important step towards the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 34/180, requested the Secretary-General to present the text of the Convention to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

1. Expresses the hope that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women will come into force at an early date;
2. Urges Governments to make the necessary arrangements leading to the opening of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for signature, ratification and accession;
3. Invites the Secretary-General to promote, by all means at his disposal, the signing and ratification of the Convention;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange a ceremony for signing the Convention to take place during the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;
5. Encourages non-governmental organizations to study and make known the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

National machinery for the monitoring and implementation
of the Programme for the United Nations Decade for
Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the provisions of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, 1/ recommending the establishment within government of national commissions, women's bureaux and similar machinery, with adequate staff and budget, for the achievement of the goals of the World Plan of Action,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action: national planning, national machinery, and legislation", 2/

Affirming the crucial role of national mechanisms in promoting the integration of women into the whole development process,

Affirming also the important role of women's groups and organizations in the identification of problems, in the monitoring of programmes of special interest to women and in the provision of special services to women, as well as their role as a mobilizing force at the local level and as a means of instilling in women confidence in their capacity to influence the processes of change,

Recognizing the need to strengthen women's groups and organizations to enable them to carry out their functions effectively,

1. Recommends that national machinery should be:

(a) Established wherever it has not already been established;

(b) Given adequate human, financial and technical resources;

(c) Given an appropriate central location within the governmental structure; having effective links with national planning units;

(d) Supported by special units, where necessary, within the concerned departments and agencies, especially those concerned with health, education, employment, labour, rural development, credit and marketing;

(e) Provided with adequate arrangements for linkages at subnational and local levels;

1/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ E/CN.6/622.

2. Recommends also that national mechanisms should be strengthened by means of a network arrangement within women's groups and organizations;

3. Further recommends that women's groups and organizations, especially at the local level, should be given adequate financial and technical resources to facilitate their ability to work with the national machinery in order better to achieve their common objective of promoting the integration of women in development.

III

Advancement of rural women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, it was decided to convene a world conference in 1980, at the mid-term of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Bearing in mind that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, established by Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977, is to be held in the near future,

Recalling that the Preparatory Committee is responsible for making recommendations regarding the substantive and organizational arrangements for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Reviewing the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in 1975, 3/

Noting that the World Plan of Action stresses the need to promote the advancement of rural women,

Observing that, in some countries, very little progress has been achieved in this direction,

Recalling that there exists a Programme of Action concerning rural questions which contains sections devoted to the consideration of concrete measures for the advancement of rural women, 4/ endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/14 of 9 November 1979,

3/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

4/ See Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

1. Invites the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, in considering and drafting, at its third session, the programme of action to be submitted to the World Conference, to include specific short-term, medium-term or long-term proposals for action in order to improve the health, working and educational conditions of women in rural areas;

2. Invites the Preparatory Committee to include in the programme of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace a recommendation to extend labour and social security legislation to rural areas for those countries for which this is appropriate;

3. Urges the Preparatory Committee to take into account the general plans set forth in the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, 4/ and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 34/14, and to include them to the extent feasible and appropriate.

IV

Programme of action for the second half
of the United Nations Decade for Women:
Equality, Development and Peace

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which the Assembly decided that in 1980, at the mid-term of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, a world conference would be convened to review and evaluate progress made in implementing the recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in 1975, 5/ and to readjust programmes for the second half of the Decade in the light of the new data and research,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare for the consideration of the Commission on the Status of Women, at its twenty-seventh session, a report outlining a programme of concrete action for the second half of the Decade,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 33/185 of 29 January 1979, in which the Assembly adopted the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education" for the Conference and recommended that the Conference should place emphasis on elaborating action-oriented plans for integrating women in the development process, particularly by promoting economic activities and employment opportunities on an equal footing with men, through, inter alia, the provision of adequate health and educational facilities,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development

5/ See Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1).

and Peace by the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference and the specialized agencies,

Recognizing that, in spite of increasing awareness and commitments of national Governments, the international community, voluntary organizations, the communication media and others during the last five years, since the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, 6/ many important obstacles and constraints still impede the practical application of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, 7/

Taking note of the fact that the advancement of women is affected by inequalities and inequities in the world situation,

Aware that the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held at Copenhagen in July 1980, should be an important occasion for assessing progress towards the attainment of the three objectives of the Decade and for deciding on future priorities and strategies for action,

Noting that the elaboration of the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade at the special session of the General Assembly on economic development, to be held in August 1980, will provide an opportunity at the global level for due account to be taken of women's role in development,

Bearing in mind that at the national, regional and international levels there is a lack of adequate mechanisms for continuing monitoring and evaluation of the measures for attaining the objectives of the Decade,

1. Recognizes that the following are among the major, basic underlying constraints that have impeded the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year at the national level, and consequently at the regional and international levels:

(a) Inadequate understanding that change in the position of women in society is not a matter for concern and endeavour by women alone; the ultimate aim is the enrichment of the whole society, and both men and women must be fully involved in an effort to achieve this;

(b) Attitudes concerning the role of men and women which are not conducive to a policy of equal opportunities for both sexes, often including a perception among women themselves of playing an inferior or restricted role;

(c) In many countries, insufficient appreciation among policy-makers of the need for economic and social change in the situation of women, and consequent lack of political will;

6/ Ibid., chap. I.

7/ Ibid., chap. II, sect. A.

(d) Inadequate recognition of the economic value of women's work in monetary and non-monetary sectors;

(e) Insufficient systematic attention to the particular needs of women and girls in national and sectoral planning, and inadequate monitoring of the effects of public policy on women;

(f) Too few women in decision-making positions at all levels of governmental and non-governmental action;

(g) Too narrow a distribution among women of the skills, experience and contacts which contribute to effective participation in public life at national and international levels;

(h) Insufficient provision of working environments and support services that would facilitate the participation of women in economic and political life;

(i) In many countries, persistence of injustice to women in national laws and administrative regulations, and inadequate positive legal commitment to a policy of equal opportunities for both men and women;

(j) Lack of financial resources, which, especially in a time of world recession, is aggravated by the factors mentioned above which affect the allocation of scarce resources;

(k) Weak communication between those whose needs are greatest of all, including rural women and the urban poor, and policy-makers in both governmental and non-governmental spheres who belong mainly to an urban-oriented élite;

(l) Lack of sufficient awareness among women, especially those from the rural areas and urban slums, about opportunities available for their development;

(m) Inadequate access of women to training, especially in skills in the non-traditional sectors, owing to socio-cultural constraints, prejudices and insufficient training facilities;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace to take into account in the final preparations for the Conference the following recommendations:

(a) That in the preparation of documentation for the Conference, the views expressed by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session should be taken into account;

(b) That the content of the programme of action for the second half of the Decade should be directly related both to the review of progress in achieving the objectives of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and to the basic underlying constraints that have impeded the attainment of these objectives; some of the important strategies that need to be given consideration appear in the annex to the present resolution;

(c) That, as part of the documentation, a sufficient data base should be made available that will facilitate the review of progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the Decade;

(d) To provide in the draft programme for the second half of the Decade guidelines for the development of indicators and methods for monitoring progress at the international, national and regional levels;

(e) That the document on review and evaluation of the progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action be published, including the statistical annex, in a single document for the World Conference and that it be published as soon as possible after the Conference in a form easily accessible, and especially to the largest possible number of women;

(f) To provide, as part of the documentation for the World Conference the summarized version of the World Plan of Action adopted at Mexico City in 1975;

(g) To provide as soon as possible after the Conference a document in a format similar to that mentioned in subparagraph (f) above, in order that the main decisions may be effectively disseminated and implemented:

3. Requests that the views and expertise of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies be fully taken into account in the preparation of the review and the formulation of strategies for inclusion in the programme for the second half of the Decade;

4. Further requests that Member States, in their deliberations at the forthcoming and subsequent meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, pay particular attention to the problems of women in development with a view to incorporating the subject of women in the development strategies of the 1980s;

5. Urges the General Assembly at its special session on economic development, in its elaboration of the strategy for the third United Nations development decade, to consider the role of women in the development process, as well as the effects of development on the position of women, and to take full account of the results of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

ANNEX

Strategies to be considered in establishing the programme of action for the second half of the Decade

1. Efforts for the integration of women in all sectors of the development plans and policies should be incorporated in the programme, and particularly in the sectors of employment, health and education, by the allocation of adequate financial, human and technical resources, by the establishment of targets for allocation of physical and financial resources, and by the study of the likely impact on women of all programmes at the planning stage; and by the monitoring and evaluation of such programmes for the extent of women's participation and benefit in them.
2. Concrete programmes should be established for providing information to women about the opportunities available to them, especially in the areas of employment, health and education, and for incentives and programmes for increasing their access to training, more particularly in the non-traditional fields.
3. Concrete programmes should be established by the use of education and the communication media to project women's potentialities and changing roles and responsibilities.
4. The participation of women should be increased at all decision-making levels of government, political parties, trade unions, judiciary and elected bodies.
5. A network of child-care centres should be established as a matter of urgency and as an essential service in increasing socialization of women's household work to enable them to participate more actively in every field.
6. Grass-roots level organizations of women should be promoted and given assistance, as key instruments of development, in mobilizing women, particularly poor women in rural and urban areas, in acquiring training in productive activities and access to needed development services and inputs, and in organizing working women, particularly in the unorganized sector, for protection against exploitation and for socio-occupational mobility through education, training and the necessary supportive services.
7. Attention and support should be given to women's role and participation in traditional and cultural life.

V

Question of elaborating a draft declaration on the
participation of women in the struggle for the
strengthening of international peace and security
and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination,
foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of
foreign domination

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution IV, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on 3 April 1978, concerning the question of elaborating a draft

declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination,

Recalling also its resolution 1978/29 of 5 May 1978 and General Assembly resolution 34/158 of 17 December 1979, by which the Commission on the Status of Women was requested to consider the question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination with a view to submitting it to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Taking note of the views and proposals of Governments, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, transmitted to the Secretary-General and contained in his report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session, 8/

Taking into account the views expressed by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session,

1. Refers to the General Assembly the question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination;

2. Invites the General Assembly to consider this question at its thirty-fifth session.

VI

Plan of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: institutions responsible for implementing the World Plan of Action at the international and regional levels

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, invited all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to submit their proposals and suggestions for implementing the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year 9/ and related resolutions of the

8/ E/CN.6/626 and Add.1.

9/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

World Conference of the International Women's Year, 1975, 10/ to develop and implement a joint interagency medium-term programme for the integration of women in development with special emphasis on technical co-operation in programmes relating to women in development, and to render, in accordance with requests of Governments, sustained assistance in the formulation, design, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes which would enable women to be integrated in national and international development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 33/185 of 29 January 1979, in which the Assembly invited the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to review progress made, as well as constraints and specific problems encountered in their technical and operational areas, and to suggest appropriate programmes for the second half of the Decade with special emphasis on the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education",

Noting with appreciation the reports of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on their activities of special interest to women,

1. Requests the specialized agencies to include in their reports to the Commission on the Status of Women information on the institutional mechanisms and procedures established to promote incorporation of women's needs into their programmes and activities;
2. Also requests the inclusion in their reports to the Commission on the Status of Women of measures being taken on behalf of women and their impact, both quantitatively and qualitatively;
3. Recommends that the draft programme of action for the second half of the Decade include at the international and regional levels:
 - (a) An increase in the effectiveness of special mechanisms within the United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, to realize the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, to increase the incorporation of women's needs into all their programmes and activities and also to increase women's participation in and benefit from these programmes and activities;
 - (b) Provision of adequate financial, human and technical resources on a regular basis to such special mechanisms to enable them to carry out their tasks effectively;
 - (c) Establishment of guidelines, wherever they do not already exist, for the study of all programmes and projects in respect of their likely impact on women, and measures for monitoring and evaluating such programmes in respect of the extent of their benefits to women;
4. Urges the specialized agencies and United Nations bodies to increase their co-ordination and co-operation, using the interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women and the Advancement of Women Branch as effective mechanisms.

10/ Ibid., chap. III.

VII

United Nations activities: Voluntary Fund for the
United Nations Decade for Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which the Assembly invited all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to render, in accordance with requests of Governments, sustained assistance in the formulation, design, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes which would enable women to be integrated in national and international development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 34/156 of 17 December 1979 on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Voluntary Fund, 11/

1. Requests all funding organizations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to review their financial and technical assistance support, both to assess the impact on women and to revise or supplement the activity to assure the involvement of and benefit to women, and to report to the General Assembly every second year, beginning in 1981, the results of those surveys and, if appropriate, corrective action taken;

2. Encourages Governments to review activities included in their national development plans, in order to assess their impact on women and to make appropriate adjustments, as necessary, taking into account the possibility of technical and financial assistance from multilateral and bilateral resources;

3. Also encourages Governments, where appropriate, to formulate, as part of their development co-operation policies, guidelines for the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women;

4. Recognizes the importance of continuing the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women beyond the term of the Decade;

5. Expresses its concern that pledges to the Voluntary Fund are not presently keeping pace with multiplying demands on the resources of the Fund;

6. Strongly urges member States who are in a position to do so to support the Fund's activities as generously as possible, in order that the range of contributors might be widened and the level of resources greatly increased;

7. Welcomes the opportunity offered by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women as a forum for increasing awareness about the possibilities of the Voluntary Fund, both for donors and recipients.

VIII

Continuation of the integrated reporting system on the status of women during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980-1985

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in its resolutions 5 (I) of 16 February 1946 and 48 (IV) of 29 March 1947 on the status of women, it reaffirmed that it was the fundamental purpose of the Commission on the Status of Women to develop proposals for promoting equal rights for women and eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex in the legal, political, economic, social and educational fields, and accordingly resolved that the functions of the Commission should be to prepare recommendations and reports for submission to the Council on these matters and to make recommendations on urgent problems requiring immediate attention, basing these functions upon all relevant information,

Reaffirming the need for reports based upon the integrated reporting system for the continued performance of these functions by the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 33/186 of 29 January 1979, decided to integrate the reporting systems on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women 12/ with those procedures established for biennial system-wide reviews and appraisals of the realization of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year 13/ and of progress made under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade 14/ and to review the new reporting system in the light of further developments,

Noting the reports of the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs on the revised procedures utilized for the purposes of the first biennial round of the integrated reporting system during 1978-1979, 15/

12/ General Assembly resolution 2263 (XXII).

13/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II., sect. A.

14/ General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV).

15/ E/CN.6/XXVIII/CRP.2.

Noting further the suggestions of the Advancement of Women Branch for further revision of procedures in order to take into account the needs of Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and other bodies of the United Nations system during the second biennial round of the integrated reporting system during 1980-1981, and for the undertaking of a programme of widespread dissemination of information obtained as a result of the operation of the reporting system, 16/

Convinced that the Commission on the Status of Women should continue its fundamental functions of monitoring the situation with regard to the status of women and of developing proposals and recommendations to the Council on the basis of all relevant information, and that it should, for that purpose, co-ordinate the results of an improved reporting system on the status of women and the continuing work of the Advancement of Women Branch in the maintenance of the existing data bank and in the development of appropriate indicators of women's status,

1. Decides to continue the existing integrated reporting system on the status of women as the means of monitoring the realization during 1980-1985 of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and of the programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, within the framework of the regular budget, the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs has the resources needed to implement its current programme for development of the integrated reporting system and to provide for the widest dissemination of information obtained therefrom;

3. Further requests that the Advancement of Women Branch provide, for every session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a progress report on implementation of new strategies for women and on its work aimed at follow-up and harmonization of activities of the various bodies of the United Nations system, including institutes and regional commissions, which contribute to the promotion of women's rights.

IX

Influence of the mass communication media on attitudes towards the role of women and men in present-day society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2063 (LXII) of 12 May 1977 regarding the influence of the mass communication media on attitudes towards the roles of women and men in present-day society,

16/ E/CN.6/XXVIII/CRP.4, E/CN.6/XXVIII/CRP.5, E/CN.6/XXVIII/CRP.6.

Taking note of the report of the special rapporteur of the Commission on the Status of Women, Dr. Esmeralda Arboleda Cuevas, on the influence of the mass communication media on attitudes towards the roles of women and men in present-day society, 17/ and of the importance of the problems raised in that report,

Emphasizing the enormous potential of the mass communication media for the training and education of the general public, in particular the potential of television and its applicability in schools and adult education centres,

Taking into account the increasing amount of time devoted by the general public to television and its influence on public attitudes and patterns of behaviour,

Considering that the influence of mass communication media is likely to increase during the next few years as a result of the use of new technologies for improving transnational audio-visual communication media,

Regretting a tendency in mass communication media to present women in stereotyped roles and pointing to the need to correct this tendency,

1. Calls upon those responsible for the content and presentation of material by mass communication media to make additional efforts to present in a more comprehensive and balanced way the right of women to enjoy equal rights and equal opportunities with men;

2. Encourages all relevant organizations, political parties, women's associations and other relevant groups or institutions to exercise their influence on those responsible to achieve the aforementioned aims;

3. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace decide, at its third session, to submit the report of the special rapporteur 17/ as a background document under item 8 of the provisional agenda for the World Conference, 18/ after appropriate revision in the light of the comments made during the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

X

Communications on the status of women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 48 (IV) of 29 March 1947, 76 (V) of 5 August 1947 and 304 (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950,

17/ E/CN.6/627.

18/ General Assembly resolution 33/189, annex.

Bearing in mind the decisions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year of 1975 and in particular the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, 19/

Considering that, as a result of the World Conference, the volume of communications concerning the status of women has increased substantially,

Considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Bearing in mind that, in its decision 86 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, the Council invited the Commission on the Status of Women to reconsider its existing authority to deal with communications relating to the status of women,

Aware that the committee to be established under the above-mentioned Convention when it comes into force is to receive reports from States Parties to the Convention but will not be authorized to receive communications on violations of women's rights or to receive reports from States not parties to the Convention,

Mindful of the need for a United Nations body concerned with all aspects of women's rights to provide international recourse for individuals, organizations and States concerned with the status of women,

Recognizing the desirability of strengthening the Commission on the Status of Women to deal with communications relating to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights and the status of women in all aspects,

Taking into account the procedures of the Commission on Human Rights to deal with communications and in particular Economic and Social Council resolutions 728 F (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959, 1235 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 and 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970,

Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the member States of the Economic and Social Council and on the basis of equitable geographic representation of the Council, to appoint an ad hoc group of experts, which would meet at the seat of the United Nations at Vienna, to study procedures for dealing with communications relating to the status of women and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-ninth session.

19/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

Fundamental freedoms guaranteed to individuals

The Economic and Social Council,

Keeping in mind the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 20/ and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 21/

Considering that everyone has the right to security of person,

Considering that all are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to equal protection of the law,

Considering that everyone is entitled, in full equality, to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his or her rights and obligations, and of any criminal charge against him or her,

Deeply concerned about the fact that close relatives - particularly the spouses, mothers and children - of persons accused of a penal offence are often, because of their relationship to those persons, the victims of persecution, harassment and other infringements of their rights,

1. Reaffirms the principles governing the fundamental guarantees of the individual, as set forth particularly in articles 3, 6, 7 and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

2. Calls on Governments to ensure the strict application of these provisions, and particularly that no one can be prosecuted, persecuted or harassed simply because of a family or social relationship with an accused or convicted person;

3. Recommends that the competent international bodies, particularly the Commission on Human Rights, should find ways of putting an end to such action, ensuring that all persons enjoy fundamental rights and guarantees, and, in particular, providing effective protection for women and children to safeguard them against any reprisals, and to restore their rights to those who have been deprived thereof.

Communications concerning the status of women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, under article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", 22/

20/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

21/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI).

22/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

Recalling the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Considering that, in many countries, prosecuted, indicted or imprisoned women are often subjected to intolerable treatment and specific forms of torture, especially when they are harassed in violation of fundamental rights, because of their national or racial origin, or solely on the basis of their political opinions,

Addresses a solemn appeal to Governments and to international bodies concerned with the defence of human rights that they should pay particular attention to the conditions in which women are detained, especially concerning respect for their dignity and corporal integrity.

XIII

Programme of work, including the draft provisional agenda
for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on the
Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Referring to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 317 (IV) of 2 December 1949,

Referring also to page 75 of the Mexico Plan of Action concerning prevention of the exploitation of women and girls, 23/ and to resolution 1 (XXVII) of 4 April 1978 of the Commission on the Status of Women,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to explain why no report has ever been prepared on the application of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others;

2. Desires that such a report should finally be prepared, emphasizing in particular the causes and socio-economic conditions which encourage the development of prostitution;

3. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace at its third session include this serious problem in the programme of action for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and take the appropriate steps to campaign against this social scourge of which women are the victims.

B. Draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommended the following draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

The Economic and Social Council,

Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women set out below:

Provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-ninth session
of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Election of officers

/Legislative authority: rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975)/

2. Adoption of the agenda

/Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, rules 5 and 7 of the rules of procedure (E/5975)/

3. Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action

/Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 3490 (XXX); Economic and Social Council resolution 2060 (LXII)/

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

/Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 34/180/

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the General Assembly submitted through the Economic and Social Council and transmitted by the Secretary-General for the information of the Commission

5. Measures taken to implement the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women by organizations within the United Nations system and by intergovernmental organizations

/Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolutions 48 B (IV), 154 F (VII), 821 IV B (XXXII) and 1978/34/

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations activities during the period 1980-1981

Report of the International Labour Organisation on its activities of special interest to women

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on its activities of special interest to women

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its activities of special interest to women

Report of the World Health Organization on its activities of special interest to women

Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women

Report of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women

6. Condition of women and children

Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 3318 (XXIX) and 34/24 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1687 (LII)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and children living under racist minority régimes, and of women and children living in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories

Report of the Secretary-General on the condition of women and children in emergency and armed conflict

7. Communications concerning the status of women

Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolutions 76 (V) and 304 (XI)

Documentation

A non-confidential list containing a brief summary of communications which deal with the principles relating to the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields

A confidential list of other communications concerning the status of women

8. Effect of transnational corporations on the status of women in southern Africa

Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/33

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

9. The condition of migrant women and children

Legislative authority: recommendation by the Commission on the Status of Women to the Economic and Social Council adopted at the 722nd meeting on 5 March 1980

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

10. Programme of future work, including a draft provisional agenda for the thirtieth session

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session

C. Resolution adopted by the Commission which requires action by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following resolution which requires action by the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 1 (XXVIII). Welfare of female migrant workers and the wives of migrant workers

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/12 of 9 May 1979, and General Assembly resolutions 31/127 of 16 December 1976, 32/120 of 16 December 1977, 33/163 of 20 December 1978 and 34/172 of 17 December 1979 on the welfare of migrant workers and their families,

Reaffirming the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Noting the efforts made in the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, towards effecting full integration of women into the development process,

Considering that such efforts have, however, failed to accommodate the plight of female migrant workers and the wives of migrant workers, who constitute a large percentage of rural women from developing countries, particularly as regards the situation prevalent in southern Africa,

1. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1980, while considering measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers, should consider also the plight of female migrant workers and the wives of migrant workers and communicate its recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

2. Appeals to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace to give maximum publicity to the plight

of female migrant workers and the wives of migrant workers from developing countries, particularly those in southern Africa.

D. Resolution adopted by the Commission which is brought to the attention of the Council

4. The Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following resolution, which is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 2 (XXVIII). International Year of Disabled Persons

For the text, see chap. IX.

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE /agenda item 3/

(a) Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action

5. Under item 3 (a), the Commission had before it five reports by the Secretary-General on review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action. ^{24/} These were discussed at the 707th to 710th meetings, held from 25 to 27 February 1980.

6. Introducing this item, the Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women explained that the five reports on review and evaluation covered the major sectors of the World Plan of Action. The over-all analysis was based on replies of Governments to the questionnaire on the implementation of the World Plan of Action, on data from specialized agencies and on various other studies and research. At the time the reports were prepared, 86 responses had been sent by Governments; 93 had been received to date. That was probably the highest number of replies in this or any other field. The elaboration and further refining of the reports had continued since their submission, mainly because of the inclusion of analyses and results of regional preparatory meetings and the incorporation of the Governments' replies received since the first reports were prepared.

7. The Minister without Portfolio with Special Reference to Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Lise Østergaard, made a statement informing the Commission of the preparations that were being made by her Government for the World Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held at Copenhagen in July 1980. She pointed out that preparations were proceeding according to schedule. She stated that a section of the university had been set aside for the non-governmental organizations forum and requested that Governments send representatives of non-governmental organizations as part of their delegations. She said that several activities were being planned to illustrate what Danish women were doing with relation to the subtheme.

8. Several representatives expressed appreciation of the quality and extent of the information available in the reports and congratulated the Secretariat, especially with respect to reports E/CN.6/222, E/CN.6/635, E/CN.6/636 and E/CN.6/637. Some representatives pointed out that the report on national planning, national machinery and legislation (E/CN.6/222) was particularly well conceived and provided a useful key to distinguishing the various interrelated factors involved in this subject. Some representatives said that the report on employment (E/CN.6/635) was based on excellent material and contained a valuable, comprehensive framework for analysing the socio-economic conditions of women in different regions and political systems.

^{24/} E/CN.6/222, E/CN.6/635, E/CN.6/636, E/CN.6/637 and Corr.1 (English only) and Corr.2; and E/CN.6/638.

9. Many representatives pointed out that in order to take the multidimensional nature of the status of women into account, there was a need to improve the existing unsatisfactory tools for monitoring women's status and to develop appropriate indicators that would portray more accurately the trends in those areas that were crucial in the enhancement of the status of women.

10. A number of representatives expressed concern that information about their countries had not been included in the reports. In that connexion, it was suggested that an annex containing a list of Governments that had replied to the questionnaire should be published. Some representatives singled out statements that they thought misrepresented or simplified the condition of women in their countries. Some representatives remarked that accounts of women in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and eastern European countries, such as those given in the report on employment (E/CN.6/635), did not reflect the actual situation in those countries and that the report should be revised accordingly.

11. Many representatives addressed themselves to specific reports or parts of reports which they felt could be reformulated, expanded or reinforced with additional data. Some representatives pointed out that certain statements referring to the deterioration of women's socio-economic conditions deserved to be more strongly elaborated and documented.

12. One representative stated that the report on employment benefited from data collected by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) especially in the areas of female unemployment, technical training and women's participation in the trade unions.

13. Some representatives suggested that the conceptualization of national machinery should be more inclusive in order to take into consideration the great variety of women's organizations and forms of their participation in political life and in trade unions. One representative stated that the report on health (E/CN.6/637) should include more extensive reference to the state of primary health services.

14. There was general agreement that the documents should be published in a single volume with a comprehensive introduction.

15. Most representatives addressed themselves to the situation prevailing in their own countries with regard to the implementation of the World Plan of Action and to the most recent developments in that regard. Many representatives referred to improvements in educational opportunities and programmes for women, and to efforts to provide benefits for working women, especially working mothers, and to implement legislation guaranteeing equal pay and equal opportunities to work and acquire training, as well as to increase women's involvement in trade unions and the various areas of decision-making.

16. Many representatives reiterated the importance of the themes of the Conference - equality, development and peace - and stressed the role of the subtheme - education, employment and health - for the enhancement of the condition of women. In that connexion, many countries singled out specific areas for analysis and action: the problems of rural women and women employed in the marginal sectors of urban areas; the still prevalent segregation of women in the labour market and in certain branches of the educational system; female illiteracy; the impact of industrial redeployment on women's employment, political participation

and women in trade unions. In the field of health, it was recommended that special attention should be given to the needs of the rural population, to the development of sanitation programmes and improvement of water supplies and basic infrastructural services which would benefit rural and urban fringe women particularly.

17. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) informed the Commission of the various programmes and activities undertaken by ESCAP since the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She said that a major activity of the regional commission during that period had been the preparation for the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. She also described the efforts of ESCAP to obtain information on the socio-economic conditions of the women of the Asian and Pacific region. For example, studies had been undertaken which threw light on the condition of young women and on strategies to improve their condition.

18. The observers for the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the Baha'i International Community also made statements on the activities undertaken by their organizations.

19. The Secretary-General of the World Conference, in her reply to certain queries, stated that the revised version of the report on review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action, which would be presented to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, would meet many of the suggestions made by various representatives. She also informed the Commission that all the relevant bodies of the United Nations had been consulted on the preparations of the reports for the Conference; and that those reports, particularly those to be considered at the third session of the Preparatory Committee, had been modified in the light of their responses. With regard to the format of the reports, she explained that the General Assembly had decided that no report should be longer than 32 single-spaced typed pages, and reports must be complete in themselves. Thus, each area of concern, such as health, education and employment was covered in a separate report. However, in response to the Commission's desire, the Secretariat could recommend to the Publications Board that a comprehensive volume should be published as a United Nations publication.

(b) Draft programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1980-1985

20. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at the 707th to 711th meetings, from 25 to 27 February 1980. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the draft programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (E/CM.6/623).

21. In introducing the report, the Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women stated that the draft programme of action was by far the most important report before the Commission, since it would form a basis of action for the next five years; it would be amended in the light of the Commission's recommendations. The value of the review and evaluation documents lay in their indications of action programmes for the future based on lessons learned in the past. She informed the Commission that the programme of action for regional and international action for the second half of the Decade would be presented to the Preparatory Committee at its third session. Views expressed by

the Commission would be taken into account in the final version of the document, which the Secretariat would submit early in May for consideration by the Conference.

22. Many representatives noted that the programme recommending national targets and strategies should reflect also the results of international conferences that addressed women's issues, especially the programme on regional and global targets and strategies. The reports of the regional commissions and that of the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries and Other Developing Countries on the Role of Women in Development, held at Baghdad in May 1979, 25/ were specifically mentioned in that connexion.

23. A number of representatives recommended that the programme should include examples of programmes that had produced positive achievements for women in both developing and developed countries at all levels. Representatives cited successful attitudinal changes, as well as effective means and measures that had been undertaken during the preceding few years to ameliorate the situation of women.

24. Several representatives expressed concern that the review and appraisal reports concluded that the situation of women in the so-called backward areas had worsened during the first half of the Decade. They therefore stressed that strategies and targets in the programme should reflect new formulations based on the effectiveness, or lack thereof, of certain measures to implement the programme of action. However, a few representatives cautioned that five years was perhaps too short a period of time to judge whether countries had succeeded or failed in improving the status of women.

25. It was suggested by a number of representatives that more attention should be given to ways of organizing women at the grass-roots level. One representative suggested that document E/CN.6/623, in chapter III, section A, 1 (e) should read:

"Systematic efforts to promote and assist grass-root level organizations as key instruments of development (i) to mobilize women, particularly poor women, in rural and urban areas; (ii) to organize for learning and productive activity and access to needed development services and inputs (e.g. education, primary health and child-care, skill development, credit and marketing facilities); and (iii) to organize working women, particularly in the unorganized, tertiary sector, for protection against exploitation, for socio-occupational mobility through education and training and necessary supportive services for child-care;"

26. Many representatives referred to the need for ordering priorities within the plan. Several said the plan should be short-term and simple and provide achievable goals that could be measured and would be time-bound.

27. Some representatives stated that the highest priority should be given to action at the national level, with programmes for urban and rural women, particularly the latter. The targets should be set for formal and informal education. Mobilization of rural women for development should also be a target. It was stated that rural women should be present in various forums and that programmes to equip women with skills were vital. Attention must also be given

25/ A/34/321, annex.

to women who worked in the home or as part-time workers outside the home, and to single-parent families. The main aim was stated to be to create links between the integration of women in national life and the major economic, social and political concerns of the country. Women would thus have greater roles in development and national planning. There was agreement that maximum flexibility should be built into the programme to allow individual nations to tailor them to their own needs. It was agreed that targets should aim at eliminating the various discriminatory practices against women.

28. Some representatives emphasized that it was not sufficient merely to establish a single focal point within the national government machinery to deal with women's issues, but special units concerned with the problems of women in all sectoral offices should be established. Similarly, at the international level, the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies should establish special units to deal with women's questions.

29. There was agreement that national plans to promote the advancement of women would need to include, among others, programmes to provide information to women concerning educational and job opportunities, the creation of networks of child-care centres, and efforts to measure the economic value of housework.

30. It was also pointed out that women in developed as well as developing countries suffered from, among other things, the different social roles assigned to men and women. The importance of that factor should be more fully reflected in the draft programme.

31. The representatives of the socialist States of eastern Europe remarked that the approach to women's issues in those countries was not fully reflected in the programme. Information should be expanded to provide a basis of comparison to countries with market economies.

32. A number of representatives stated that attention should be drawn to article 18, on legislation, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 26/ and an appeal should be made for the ratification and full implementation of the Convention.

33. A few representatives remarked that, in the report under review, problems were presented in chapter I, entitled "Historical perspective". One representative questioned the sociological reality of statements in section A, relating "the roots of oppression of women" only to colonial domination. Another representative stated that discrimination against women existed also in many developed countries. It was also pointed out that that chapter should reflect that the objective of equality between men and women had already been achieved in some countries.

34. A few representatives emphasized that chapter I, section B, entitled "Review of progress achieved in the first half of the Decade: lessons for the future", should be expanded, and the specific causes of problems and obstacles to women should be pointed out.

35. There was some discussion on chapter II, entitled "Conceptual framework". One representative requested that the following statement be added to section A:

26/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

"A relation also exists between the objectives of the Decade and the need to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism and apartheid." Another representative stated that section C was action-oriented rather than conceptual.

36. There was general agreement that it would be necessary for periodic reviews in order to monitor the implementation of the programme and some delegations saw the Commission on the Status of Women having a role in that regard. A number of representatives called for improved data.

37. Many representatives stated that there would be a need for a second decade for women since the implementation of the goals being formulated could not possibly be achieved within the succeeding five years.

38. A few representatives asked that attention be given to men's roles and attitudes in the process towards equality.

39. One representative referred to the predicament of certain developing countries which had become economically dependent on trade and co-operation with transnational corporations. The question of how best to handle the effects of that dependence on the situation of women should be examined in the programme.

40. There was general agreement that the results of the World Conference should be disseminated as widely as possible.

41. A number of specific suggestions were made by representatives, as follows:

(a) The question of disabled women should be addressed in the programme;

(b) The following should be added to the draft programme after "sectoral development programmes" (chap. III, sect. A, 1 (c)): "... including study of the likely impact on women of these programmes at their planning stage, to ensure participation in and benefit to women";

(c) Results of the reproductive role of women must be addressed as a problem as they affect discrimination against women inside and outside the family;

(d) The following should be added at the end of the last sentence in chapter III, section A, 4: "... and foreign settling in occupied land";

(e) Measures should be taken for the education and dissemination of information for the encouragement of girls to acquire necessary skills, and the effects should be measured in the International Youth Year in 1985.

42. The representative of the ILO requested that the section on employment be further developed to include the involvement of women in trade unions; and that women's work in trade unions should be developed in the form of recommendations.

43. The representative of ESCAP stressed that there was a need to establish institutional and financial arrangements at the international level for activities relating to women. She suggested that, as there was a separate agency dealing with all problems concerning children, namely the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), so there should be, within the United Nations system, a specialized agency that would handle all questions relating to women.

44. The observer for the World Federation of United Nations Associations made a statement.

45. The Secretary-General of the World Conference spoke about the programme at the conclusion of the discussion. She stated that as part of a new strategy, the integration of women's concerns into all the ongoing initiatives of the international community should be given high priority. These initiatives included the new international development strategy, the new international economic order, United Nations conferences, and the special session of the General Assembly.

(c) Women and development and international conferences

(d) Preparations for the World Conference

46. The Commission considered agenda items 3 (c) and 3 (d) at its 711th meeting.

47. Under item 3 (c), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Women and development and international conferences" (E/CN.6/624).

48. Under item 3 (d), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Actions taken in preparation for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace" (E/CN.6/625).

49. In introducing the report "Women and development and international conferences", the Secretary-General of the World Conference noted that it was logically linked to international action on questions relating to women. She reiterated resolution 5 (XXVII) by which this Commission called for monitoring of the level of attention given by international conferences to the particular concerns of women and to practical action that might not only benefit women but help to achieve recognition of the fact that women should not be considered a special disadvantaged group outside the mainstream of major international concerns.

50. In the discussion on item 3 (c), some representatives referred to some of the United Nations conferences which gave attention to the problems of women, particularly the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. One representative expressed the opinion that comprehensive studies on the role of women should be prepared for all United Nations conferences so that all the participants would be sufficiently informed about women's issues and would adopt appropriate recommendations. It was suggested that the Secretary-General should submit a programme report on this subject to the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The view was expressed that the Commission should concentrate on the promotion of the cause of women in developing countries. One of the representatives described measures taken by her Government to benefit women in the developing countries.

51. Some representatives considered that emphasizing the role of women in the planning process of international conferences was a principal strategy for making all United Nations Member States continuously conscious of the need to promote the equality of women and of the relevance of their increased involvement in development. It was suggested that the subject of women in development be incorporated into the preparatory meeting for the international development strategy for the third development decade. One representative recommended that

the secretariat for the World Conference, in preparing its final report on the subject for the Conference, should devote a section thereof to the desirability and feasibility of incorporating women's items in future United Nations conferences and to identifying and analysing possible criteria for selecting the most important conferences in which the issues of women in development could be included.

52. One representative noted that, while consideration of women's affairs should be included in all forthcoming United Nations meetings, it should not always be in the form of a separate item as that could preclude discussion of other items.

53. Concerning preparations for the World Conference, a number of representatives described the activities undertaken in their countries. One representative pointed out that her country was using the forthcoming 1980 World Conference as a catalyst for national activity. Some representatives expressed the view that opportunities offered by the 1980 World Conference to highlight the creative activities of women, and their contributions to the arts and sciences, should be fully used.

Consideration of draft resolutions and voting

54. At the 718th meeting of the Commission the observer for the Netherlands, 27/ on behalf also of Australia, Colombia, Finland, India, Lesotho, Malaysia, New Zealand and Norway, introduced for consideration by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (E/CN.6/L.750). Belgium, Niger, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were added as sponsors of the draft resolution.

55. The observer for the Netherlands revised the text orally as follows: in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution the words "and the" were added before the words "Decade for Women". An operative paragraph 5 was added, which, after taking account of a proposal made by the representative of Bulgaria and endorsed by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and the USSR, read: "Encourages non-governmental organizations to study and make known the provisions of the Convention."

56. The representatives of France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom pointed out that their Governments had expressed reservations on certain parts of the Convention during its discussion by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

57. The Commission adopted the following draft resolution, as orally revised:

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting with satisfaction that the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session adopted resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979 containing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

27/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions (E/5975).

Recalling that at its twenty-sixth session the Commission on the Status of Women recommended the adoption of the said Convention in resolution 1 (XXVI) of 17 December 1976,

Recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council: (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I)

58. At the 718th meeting, the representative of Peru, on behalf also of Guatemala and Honduras, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.753) on the indiscriminate use of drugs and the illegal traffic in narcotic drugs. Following a discussion in which many representatives expressed the view that, despite the importance of the subject, the Commission was not the appropriate forum to deal with it, the representative of Peru withdrew the draft resolution.

59. At the 718th meeting, the observer for Colombia, on behalf also of Costa Rica, Honduras and Peru, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.755) on the advancement of rural women. The sponsors accepted a proposal by Bulgaria, supported by Czechoslovakia and the USSR, which added to the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council the words "in some countries" after the words "has been achieved".

60. The representative of the USSR proposed to include in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council the words "labour legislation and" before the words "social security". The representative of France supported the USSR proposal, further amending the same paragraph to read as follows: "Invites the Committee to propose for inclusion in the programme of action for the World Conference a recommendation to countries to extend labour and social security legislation to rural areas". The sponsors accepted the proposal of the USSR, as revised by the representative of France.

61. At the 719th meeting, Bulgaria joined the group of sponsors of the draft resolution E/CN.6/L.755.

62. At the 720th meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom, supported by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, proposed the addition to paragraph 2 of the words "for those countries for which this is appropriate" after the words "rural areas".

63. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the amendment. At the same meeting, the following draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by the Commission:

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling that, in General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, it was decided to convene a world conference in 1980, at the mid-term of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977, in which it was decided to establish a preparatory committee to make recommendations concerning the substantive arrangements for the Conference,

Calling attention to the fact that the third session of the Preparatory Committee is to be held soon,

Recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council: (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III).

64. The representative of Belgium expressed reservations as to the propriety of discussing labour legislation outside the ILO.

65. At the 719th meeting, the representative of India, on behalf also of Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Trinidad and Tobago, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.752) entitled "National machinery for monitoring and implementation of the programme for the United Nations Decade for Women". Belgium was added as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

66. At its 720th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

67. The representatives of Finland and Norway expressed their reservations in respect of operative paragraph 1 (d) concerning the effectiveness of establishing separate national machinery for women.

68. At the 719th meeting, the representative of Malaysia, on behalf also of France and Lesotho, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.757) entitled "Programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace". She announced that China, India, Japan, Pakistan and Uganda had also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

69. The representative of Malaysia, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the text as follows: in operative paragraph 2 (a) the words "at its twenty-eighth session" were added before the words "should be taken into account"; operative paragraph 2 (d) was replaced by the following: "To provide in the draft programme for the second half of the Decade guidelines for the development of indicators and methods for monitoring progress at the national, regional and international levels;"; in the annex, paragraph 7 was replaced by the following: "Attention and support should be given to women's role and participation in traditional and cultural life".

70. The observer for the Netherlands and the representative of the United Kingdom, although sharing the views expressed in the resolution, stated their reservations in respect of the annex to the draft resolution which listed strategies to be considered in establishing the programmes of action for the second half of the Decade.

71. The representative of the United States informed the Commission, at the 719th meeting, that the draft resolution submitted by her delegation (E/CN.6/L.756) entitled "Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the United Nations Decade for Women", would be merged with the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.757) on the same subject. She indicated that the following paragraph should be added, after operative paragraph 4 of that draft resolution: "Further requests member states, in their deliberations at the forthcoming and subsequent meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, to pay particular attention to the problems of women in development with a view to incorporating the subject of women in the development strategies of the 1980s".

72. Subsequently, a revised draft resolution entitled "Programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace" (E/CN.6/L.757/Rev.1) was introduced, which reflected both the revisions submitted by the representative of Malaysia and the proposal of the representative of the United States.

73. The Secretary of the Commission read out a statement of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (see annex IV).

74. At the 720th meeting, the revised draft resolution was adopted (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV).

75. In their explanation of vote, the representatives of Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States expressed their reservations in respect of the appropriateness of the annex to the draft resolution.

76. The representatives of Bulgaria and the USSR reserved their positions on operative paragraphs 2 (e), (f) and (g), which had financial implications.

III. THE QUESTION OF ELABORATING A DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND AGAINST COLONIALISM, RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AGGRESSION, OCCUPATION AND ALL FORMS OF FOREIGN DOMINATION
/agenda item 4/

77. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 714th to 716th and 721st meetings on 29 February, and 3 and 5 March 1980. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination (E/CN.6/626 and Add.1).

78. The Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, in introducing the item, informed the Commission that the report contained excerpts from replies of 19 Governments and summaries of replies from specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as the text of a draft declaration submitted by the German Democratic Republic. She also referred to General Assembly resolution 34/158 of 17 December 1979 in which the Commission was urged to consider at its twenty-eighth session the question of elaborating a draft declaration on the subject in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/142 of 16 December 1977, and for the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, taking into account the views expressed during the thirty-fourth session of the Assembly.

79. The representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced the text of a draft declaration on the subject, contained in document E/CN.6/626. He stated that the General Assembly had stressed in a number of resolutions the promotion of women's participation in the struggle for peace as a basic requirement for the world-wide implementation of women's equality. In order to transform the principles set forth in those resolutions into action-oriented instruments, General Assembly resolutions 32/142 and 34/158 requested the elaboration of a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of peace. The German Democratic Republic had accordingly submitted a draft declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1979 in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/142. In the view of the German Democratic Republic, the main purpose of the envisaged declaration was to appeal to all States to create the most favourable conditions for the involvement of women in this struggle, on equal terms with men.

80. Several representatives referred to General Assembly resolutions 32/142 and 34/158 and to Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/29, which requested the Commission to consider at its twenty-eighth session the question of elaborating a draft declaration with a view to submitting it to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. It was stated that document E/CN.6/626 and Add.1 was a good basis for discussion and that it should be submitted to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in July 1980, so that it might be considered by the maximum number of Member States.

81. Many representatives expressed the view that international peace was an important condition for the realization of equal rights for women in all countries of the world. It was noted that resources released as a result of effective measures on disarmament could be channelled to eliminate some of the major problems women still faced in some parts of the world, namely, under-development, exploitation, backwardness, illiteracy, disease and hunger. A few representatives stated that a draft declaration should reflect the view that disarmament met the aspirations of developing countries to overcome economic backwardness and to organize international economic relations on a democratic basis. It was also noted that a draft declaration should call upon States to ensure the democratic restructuring of international economic relations, and the implementation of the sovereign right of every State to establish an economic order of its own choice and to use its own natural resources, which would contribute to the safeguarding of international peace and the creation of appropriate socio-economic conditions for women.

82. Several representatives warned of the devastating social and economic effects of war on women. A number of representatives pointed out that, since there were many areas of conflict throughout the world and millions of women and children still suffering from colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid, foreign aggression and occupation, a draft declaration should demand that the causes of such practices be uprooted. The view was expressed that efforts to support international peace and to end aggression ought to be clearly associated in a draft declaration with the abolition of racism and colonialism, as well as with women's role in achieving the new international economic order.

83. One representative put forward the opinion that section I of the draft declaration contained in document E/CN.6/626 should contain the following paragraphs:

(a) Stressing the importance of the recommendations and decisions of the General Assembly at its tenth special session on disarmament;

(b) Calling upon all countries to implement the above resolutions in the interests of world peace and security, as the arms race was incompatible with and contrary to efforts directed towards the establishment of the new international economic order;

(c) Condemning the way by which imperialist countries subverted the people's struggle against colonialism, zionism and apartheid, and those who sustained these inhuman practices;

(d) Paying tribute to the stand of peace-loving countries for their historical role for the solidarity and enforcement of all oppressed peoples in their struggle for justice, freedom and self-determination.

84. Another representative informed the Commission that the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries and Other Developing Countries on the Role of Women in Development, held at Baghdad in May 1979, had declared that governmental bodies and cultural institutions should assume the responsibility of ensuring that women became conscious of the real meaning of the concept of peace as an objective of humanity and as an essential means of achieving national dignity, sovereignty, social justice and economic independence, since real development depended on them.

85. Several representatives emphasized that a draft declaration was largely the problem of the oppressed women of the world and it should be discussed by the oppressed peoples themselves rather than by people from nations where oppression did not exist. The view was expressed that a draft declaration should specify problems that affected oppressed peoples, especially those of southern Africa. A number of representatives expressed their solidarity with the women of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Palestine, fighting for equality and freedom.

86. One representative questioned whether the Commission was the proper forum in which to raise the variety of issues presented in the draft declaration. He felt that questions of international peace might be better dealt with in the General Assembly and other bodies of the United Nations system. He also considered that functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council could better serve the tasks of the United Nations while discussing the subjects allocated to them.

87. The observer for the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania pointed out that South Africa continued to be the corner-stone of racism, exploitation, and mass genocide of the indigenous population of that country. Women in South Africa suffered discrimination for reasons of class, sex and race. She described the subjugation and restrictions of women in the Bantu areas. She emphasized that women who constituted the majority of the so-called homelands, resisted fearlessly the oppressive system of apartheid, and referred to projects to help women in the liberation movements to participate in programmes for the future reconstruction of their countries. She stated that the Pan-Africanist Congress called upon women to pledge their solidarity with the national liberation movements in their struggle against apartheid, colonialism and the exploitation and plundering of their national resources by local and international exploiters, and called upon those countries who collaborated with South Africa through investments, and/or by supplying military hardware, to desist from doing so since that perpetuated the exploitation of the black population. She said that the Congress also called for assistance to women in the liberation movements in entering centres of learning so as to prepare themselves for participation in national reconstruction after liberation; and she stressed before the international community the need for the protection of women and children in areas of conflict where they had been placed as refugees.

88. The observer for the African National Congress of South Africa called upon Governments and non-governmental organizations to play an important role in assisting the struggle of the southern African people and to further isolate the racist régimes. She also urged women's organizations to take initiative in conducting negotiations with their Governments in pursuing the programme of action for the second half of the Decade. She emphasized that equality, development and peace could only be achieved through the implementation of the right of every nation to self-determination. She stated that the liberation of women was parallel to the liberation of every nation and, consequently, to the peaceful development of humankind. In conclusion, she said that the plight of women of southern Africa should be given high priority by directing efforts towards the elimination of racism and apartheid in that region. She suggested that some recommendations contained in document E/CN.6/619, namely, paragraphs 78 and 79, be deleted.

89. At the 714th meeting, the representative of Malaysia, speaking on behalf also of China, Japan and Pakistan, proposed that agenda item 4 be considered by a working group consisting of three representatives from each region, and that the

working group should report on its deliberations to the plenary Commission. After some discussion, it was decided by 23 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions, to establish a working group. Statements were made by representatives of Czechoslovakia, Cuba, Iraq and the USSR to explain their vote. The Commission further decided that the Chairman of the Working Group should be M. Morrison (Lesotho), Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

Consideration of the report of the Working Group and voting

90. At its 721st meeting, the Commission resumed the discussion of item 4 for which it had the report of the Working Group (E/CN.6/639). The Chairman of the Working Group, M. Morrison (Lesotho), introduced the report and stated that the Group recommended the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.6/639 for adoption by the Commission (see annex III below). She further informed the Commission that the group of African States agreed that the views expressed in plenary meeting by the observers of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania and the African National Congress should be reflected in the report of the Commission.

91. The observer from Poland made a proposal to include a new paragraph in the preambular part of the draft declaration submitted by the German Democratic Republic and contained in document E/CN.6/626, the text of which read as follows: "Having in mind the ideas contained in the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace 28/ adopted by the General Assembly during its thirty-third session and reaffirming the special role women should play in the process of bringing up the new generations,".

92. The representative of the ILO referred to the reply of that organization to the note verbale of the Secretary-General on the question of elaborating a draft declaration and also to the "Mid-term plan 1982-87" of the ILO, in particular paragraphs 1.9 and 1.15, entitled "Military expenditures limit social development".

93. After some discussion, the Commission took note of the report of the Working Group and adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Group (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V).

94. The representative of the German Democratic Republic, on behalf also of the representatives of Bulgaria and the USSR, stated that they considered the elaboration of a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination as a matter of the highest priority and they hoped that it would be elaborated at an early date. He pointed out that, in a spirit of co-operation, they had agreed to the adoption of the resolution contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the Working Group. They were convinced that the elaboration of a draft declaration by the General Assembly would be a useful step to support the participation of women in the struggle for peace. However, in view of General Assembly resolutions 32/142 of 16 December 1977 and 34/158 of 17 December 1979, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29 which envisaged that a draft declaration on the subject would be submitted to the forthcoming World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (1980), they continued to be convinced that the World Conference was the competent body to elaborate the draft declaration.

28/ See General Assembly resolution 33/73.

95. The representative of Czechoslovakia endorsed the statement made by the representative of the German Democratic Republic.

96. The representative of Bulgaria regretted that some representatives and specialized agencies had not been given the possibility of speaking on agenda item 4.

97. The representatives of Peru and the United Kingdom expressed their gratitude to the Chairman of the Working Group for having conducted the work of the Group in a most distinguished manner.

IV. MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE /agenda item 5/

(a) United Nations activities

98. The Commission considered agenda item 5 (a) at its 709th, 711th to 713th and 716th meetings, between 26 February and 3 March 1980.

99. Under item 5 (a), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General describing various United Nations activities undertaken during the period 1978-1979 in implementation of the Programme of the United Nations Decade for Women (E/CN.6/633); a report of the Secretary-General on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; 29/ and a report of the Secretary-General on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. 30/

100. In introducing the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/633) on measures taken by the United Nations to implement the Programme of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1976-1985, the Assistant Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs responsible for the Advancement of Women Branch drew attention to the summaries contained in that document, and provided further information on recent developments in regard to a number of activities. She drew the Commission's attention to the fact that the General Assembly, at its thirty-fourth session, had adopted by consensus resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979 on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. She drew attention in particular to the actions required of the Secretary-General in operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of this resolution, and to the institutional arrangements and procedures called for in part V (arts. 17-22) of the Convention.

101. With regard to the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, the Assistant Director explained that, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 33/200 of 29 January 1979 and 34/204 of 19 December 1979, and specifically in order to make available the latest information on this matter to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1980, and to the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, the Secretariat had during the period November 1979-January 1980 obtained from 27 bodies of the United Nations system of organizations information contained in substantial observations and studies. This had been used in the preparation of the Secretary-General's report on this matter, which had been recently transmitted for final processing to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters. Because of limitations on the length of documents prepared for the General Assembly a large quantity of detailed information which was considered

29/ A/34/612.

30/ A/34/579.

of great interest to bodies concerned with this field could not be included in this report. Accordingly, a longer version had been prepared as a working paper of the Advancement of Women Branch.

102. With regard to women in education and in the economic and social fields the Assistant Director drew the Commission's attention to the fact that the General Assembly, by its resolution 34/159 of 17 December 1979, had requested the Secretary-General to circulate his analytical report on this topic 31/ as a background document of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. It had also invited the World Conference to give due attention to the question of improving the status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields in order to achieve equality between women and men. Since completion of the Secretary-General's report the Secretariat had revised certain of the indicators contained in its statistical addendum. 32/ The revised version of this addendum was before the Commission for its information.

103. With regard to measures to combat prostitution, the Assistant Director noted that the Commission had been represented at the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights, which had a mandate in relation to the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, by Janet Cockcroft (United Kingdom) in 1978, and by Farida Allaghi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) in 1979.

104. The significant developments that had occurred during the latter part of 1979 with regard to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women were explained. The Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the matter. 33/

105. On the basis of this report, the General Assembly had adopted its resolution 34/157 of 17 December 1979, which endorsed resolution 1979/11 of the Economic and Social Council and accepted the offer of the Government of the Dominican Republic to act as host country for the Institute. This resolution also requested the Secretary-General to act expeditiously to sign the agreement with the host country and to appoint the Director of the Institute in consultation with Member States. The Secretariat was currently conducting consultations with the Government of the Dominican Republic in preparation for the signing of an agreement regarding the Institute. The Board of Trustees of the Institute, at its first session held at Geneva from 22 to 26 October 1979, had adopted the programme budget of the Institute for the biennium 1980-1981. Together with the report of the Board, this would be presented to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1980. The Board of Trustees had reaffirmed the importance of the terms of reference of the Institute which stated that the Institute would work within the general objectives of the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year held at Mexico City in 1975. Within this general framework, the Board of Trustees had set forth permanent objectives for the activities of the Institute as well as immediate objectives for the biennium 1980-1981. Special emphasis would be laid on preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1980. To carry out its programme, the Institute would have a small staff

31/ A/34/577.

32/ A/34/577/Add.1.

33/ A/34/579.

and would rely to a large extent on consultants. As of 30 December 1979 a total of \$US 1,829,471 had been pledged to the Institute, of which \$US 1,639,882 had already been paid to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Institute. Owing to insufficiency of funds, further fund-raising would be necessary.

106. With regard to women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination (which the Commission took up primarily under agenda item 4), the Assistant Director drew the attention of the Commission to the report of the Secretary-General on this matter. 34/ It was pointed out that, in gathering information with regard to the representation of women in intergovernmental meetings concerned with peace and security it was noted that women's participation had been low in all instances.

107. With regard to rationalizations of the reporting system on the status of women, the Assistant Director drew the attention of the Commission to a conference room paper on the administration of the integrated reporting system on the status of women. This set out the procedures undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat during 1978 and 1979 for the preparation, transmission and retrieval of the questionnaire on implementation during the period 1975-1978 of the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year. The paper also set out suggestions for future administration of the integrated reporting system, which included, primarily suggestions for a substantial decentralization of work to regional commissions, specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system.

108. The Assistant Director drew the attention of the Commission to a conference room paper on the information activities of the Advancement of Women Branch during 1979 which had been prepared to supplement the information contained in the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/633).

109. The attention of the Commission was drawn also to activities of the Advancement of Women Branch during 1979 and the first quarter of 1980. These consisted in part of preliminary work on a compendium of information on women's status and participation in development, on a series of studies of national experience in the formulation and implementation of policy designed to improve women's status and effective participation in development, 1970-1980 and on a series of analyses information provided by Governments in reply to the questionnaire on implementation during the period 1975-1978 of the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year. As an example of these analyses the Commission had before it an informal paper which transmitted an analysis of replies concerning the participation of women in the planning process.

110. Recent developments concerning the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women were explained to the Commission by the Senior Social Affairs Officer responsible for administration of the Fund, who drew attention to the Secretary-General's report on this matter to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session 35/ which was before the Commission.

34/ A/34/471 and Corr.1.

35/ A/34/612.

111. The adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, in its resolution 34/180, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, was considered by many representatives and observers to have been a major achievement in the struggle to achieve equality between women and men. The work of the Commission, in calling for such a Convention as a means of strengthening the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women 36/ and in laying the basis for its preparation was recalled by several representatives. It had validity for both developed and developing countries. Even for those in which juridical equality had been largely achieved, the Convention would induce Governments to take action to ensure full implementation and continued compliance.

112. Representatives of a number of organizations within the United Nations system described to the Commission their current activities. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) recalled that its mandate in this matter had been given in 1975 within the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation 37/ in which the objective of full employment and integration of women into the development process was set forth. Subsequent actions had been limited to modification and shifts in emphasis of existing projects. To assist in formulation of the UNIDO programme in this area, a seminar on Women and Industrialization in Developing Countries had been held at Vienna in November 1978. Since that date considerable attention had been given to this matter particularly in formulating project proposals in fields such as rural industrialization, adoption of improved technology, industrial co-operatives, small-scale industries, and mutual relationships between agriculture and industry. A first study of the implications for women of the redeployment of industry from more developed to less developed countries had been recently completed. Currently, preparatory work was being undertaken on a series of case studies of women in industry. Food processing and textiles industries had been selected as the first of such studies. Close co-operation with other United Nations bodies was being further developed. Energetic attempts were being made to ensure that both the implications for women, and also the possibilities for women's involvement, were taken fully into consideration in the design of all programmes of UNIDO. A number of representatives commented favourably upon the greater attention now being given by UNIDO to a field of the greatest importance to women in both developed and developing countries. This was of major significance at present, and would be even more so during coming decades, given the trend towards a more rapid industrialization of developing countries. UNIDO was urged to substantially expand its programme in this field.

113. The representative of the World Food Programme described the emphasis being given to the participation of women in the projects undertaken by that organization.

114. The representative of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities drew the attention of the Commission to the current substantial support given by that organization to programmes concerned with population and women in many countries. This reflected the close relationship established between the status of women and demographic trends. The representative of the Fund stressed the importance of helping women to prepare project requests, and noted the very valuable contribution being made by non-governmental organizations at both international and national levels.

36/ General Assembly resolution 2263 (XXII).

37/ A/10012, chap. IV.

115. The representative of UNICEF reported on that organization's current activities in preparing for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. She stressed the fact that the problems of women could not be dissociated from those of children. Within her organization, steps had been taken to increase the proportion of women at higher grades, and to motivate all programme administrators to take fully into account the implications for women, as well as the potential for women's contribution, of all projects.

116. Several representatives referred to the work of regional commissions. One reported on the Seminar on the Participation of Women in the Economic Evolution of the ECE Region, held from 9 to 12 July 1979 in Paris. This Seminar had been organized by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The secretariat of that Commission submitted a first version of a comprehensive study of the economic role of women in the ECE region. This and a report of the Seminar were available to the Commission for its information. 38/ A second representative drew the Commission's attention to the need for improved co-ordination between regional commissions and member Governments with regard to women's status and participation in development. Close consultation by means of regional co-ordinating committees should continue after 1980.

117. With regard to co-ordination of the various activities of the United Nations system of organizations, several representatives and observers noted that there was considerable scope for an improvement of mechanisms. This was true with regard to policy formulation, financial planning and operational activities. Considerable overlapping between the programmes of different bodies existed. Such improvement was particularly necessary in view of the need to use the potential of the United Nations system to the maximum extent. It was particularly important to improve women's participation in policy formulation and planning and to make this activity more visible within the United Nations system.

118. A number of representatives and observers stressed the need for the Commission to take a leading role in the provision of guidance with regard to such improvement in co-ordination and also to improvement in the system of monitoring the implementation of the World Plan of Action and the programme of action for the second half of the Decade to the Economic and Social Council and to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women at its third session. The need was stressed for a comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action during the second half of the Decade. Without careful review and appraisal, the formulation of strategies for the future would have only symbolic value. It was suggested that such a review and appraisal be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in order not to isolate the matter of women's status and participation in development from the over-all considerations of those bodies. It was noted that the Population Commission, in order to contribute strongly to the preparations for the World Population Conference held at Bucharest in August 1974, had held three special sessions at six-month intervals. In contrast, the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women had been restricted to a biennial cycle, and the current session had been limited to only eight days.

119. One representative suggested that annual reports to the Economic and Social Council evaluating the programmes of the United Nations system and the situation of women were necessary. It was essential to contribute effectively to the work of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and to the many forthcoming international conferences.

38/ ECE/SEM.5/2 and Add.1-4; ECE/SEM.5/9.

120. With regard to the integrated reporting system on the status of women, which comprised previously separate systems of reporting on the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and on implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, a number of representatives and observers commented on its past operation and future activities. Implications for monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and on implementation of the programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women were discussed. It was suggested that the Commission should make recommendations based upon its experience, taking into account the suggestions for the administration of monitoring and for dissemination of information set out in four informal papers before the Commission. It was proposed that the biennial reporting system should continue, giving special attention to the assessment of slow changes in the situation.

121. Some representatives called for streamlining of both questionnaires and reports. Questionnaires should be sent at an advanced date so that national arrangements for data collection and analysis, to be established on a permanent basis, might have time to take their requirements into consideration in preparing their programmes. A number of representatives explained that in their countries data were incomplete. Several representatives noted the value of existing national machineries and liaison officers who acted as national contacts for the reporting system.

122. In addition to the suggestions for decentralization set out in one of the informal papers before the Commission, it was proposed to further reduce the burden upon Governments by preparing country summaries of available information. These, rather than detailed comprehensive questionnaires would be submitted to Governments for revision and comment. Wherever possible, a system of continuous dialogue with responsible Government agencies would be developed to replace periodic requests for substantial amounts of information. The Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was expanding its activities in building up a data base, and on developing means of disseminating more widely the information it contained. It would maintain contact with members of the Commission on the means of improving this activity.

123. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs pointed out that the difficulties of the less developed countries were understood, and efforts would be made, possibly with the assistance of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, to assist Governments in the improvement of their data base. Nevertheless, it had been extremely encouraging to see that over 90 Governments, many from developing regions, had been able to provide replies of high quality.

124. The observer for St. Joan's International Alliance, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (Category II), drew the attention of the Commission to a statement of 31 non-governmental organizations contained in document E/CN.6/NGO/283. This concerned female sexual slavery, which included imprisonment and torture associated with the forced prostitution of girls and women in a number of countries. The observer referred to the continuous efforts of her organization to keep this issue before the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system and urged the Commission not to overlook this serious problem.

125. With regard to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, several representatives expressed their view that its establishment was a most valuable step forward. One representative suggested that, while the Institute should work within the framework of the World Plan of Action, it should have the latitude to give its attention to matters that Plan may have overlooked, or which had arisen since 1975. In her closing comments, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs recapitulated the causes of the delay in establishment of the Institute and reiterated the intention of the Secretariat of the United Nations to give it every future support.

126. At the 711th meeting of the Commission, the officer-in-charge of co-ordinating the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women made a statement which elaborated upon the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General which was before the Commission. The policy of the Voluntary Fund was to provide seed-money for projects which could later be taken up by longer-term funding agencies. With regard to current and future financial resources, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the critical situation reached at a time when the activities of the Voluntary Fund were beginning to make an impact upon the extent of commitment of other funding agencies. Requests by Governments for assistance had accelerated as the activities of the Voluntary Fund had become more widely known, but there had been no accompanying acceleration in the pledging of contributions by Governments.

127. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs stressed the desirability of the United Nations system bringing to the attention of Governments early in each year the need to make provision for contributions to the Fund. This would allow time for Governments to include such provision in their budgets and so to be in a position to contribute at the time of the annual pledging conference in November each year. She appealed to non-governmental organizations to join in efforts to persuade Governments of the importance of contributing, or of expanding their contributions, to the Fund.

128. At the 712th meeting of the Commission, a considerable number of representatives expressed their satisfaction with the work of the Voluntary Fund. Its pioneering and catalytic function had made possible larger-scale funding by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and had allowed for the strengthening of the work of the regional commissions, an accomplishment which was especially acknowledged by the representative of ESCAP. The projects funded were of a character precisely in line with the intentions of the international community; funds were reaching the poorest women in the poorest countries in constructive ways. The ability of such women to absorb funds effectively had not been apparent prior to the Fund's activities, but was now established.

129. Several representatives expressed their concern with regard to the Fund's financial position, which was the result of global economic circumstances, and not in any way the fault of management. One problem had been the pledging of funds for single years: the representative of a country that had pledged a series of annual contributions over a longer period urged other Governments to follow suit in order to facilitate planning. Increased contributions were called for. Non-governmental organizations were urged to regard the Fund as a viable vehicle for the disbursement of their contributions.

130. The Commission was aware that grave economic circumstances precluded contributions from many developing countries.

131. Many representatives expressed their view that the activities undertaken by the Fund should continue after 1985. That had, indeed, been called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/156 of 17 December 1979. Various suggestions were put forward concerning the institutional arrangements within the United Nations system which would best support such a continuation. The majority of those representatives who expressed their view on this matter supported integration within the framework of UNDP. The existing close relationship was considered most valuable, not only for the Fund itself, but also in that it allowed the Fund to influence the design of many UNDP projects of special interest to women in order to enhance their positive impact. One representative called for the establishment of a Fund for women analogous to that of UNICEF for children and suggested that the occasion of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to take place in July 1980, should be used to devise appropriate institutional arrangements. In their statement, representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme pointed out that similar special funds were being established in the light of the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

132. In response to the observations and suggestions of representatives the officer-in-charge of co-ordinating the activities of the Voluntary Fund noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 34/156, had expressed the wish that the Secretary-General should explore with the UNDP and other specialized agencies means of ensuring that the activities of the Fund would continue beyond 1985. In regard to the concern expressed by a representative of a least developed country that economic conditions precluded contributions to the Fund, it was stated that additional contributions were being sought from other industrial countries and from developing countries having the capacity to help, but not from countries unable to contribute. With regard to the difficulties experienced by many developing countries in preparing project requests, action had been taken to ensure that this would not result in their inability to benefit fairly from the Fund's activities. Regional commissions had begun to organize workshops in project preparation and development. The number of projects had not decreased during 1980 in spite of the failure of contributions to meet rising demands for disbursement.

133. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in her closing remarks, expressed the belief that a greater integration of the Fund's projects within the next round of UNDP country programming would be achieved during the next five years.

134. With regard to the position of women in the United Nations system, one representative urged the Secretary-General to follow up the recommendations of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the matter. ^{39/} She noted a continuing alarming absence of women from policy formulation and planning in the social, economic, and political fields within the United Nations system. This had a detrimental effect upon development. The specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies should provide detailed reports of the situation. Action should be taken to support governmental efforts to increase the participation of women in such fields. Her Government had introduced special measures for this purpose.

^{39/} JIU/REP/77/7, transmitted to the General Assembly by note A/33/105.

The Rapporteur drew the attention of the Commission to the hardship imposed upon young women workers at the Vienna International Centre by the absence of a crèche, despite attention in its design to inclusion of many other facilities.

135. The Commission had before it a summary of the public information activities of the Advancement of Women Branch during 1979.

(b) Activities of the specialized agencies

136. The Commission considered agenda item 5 (b) at its 711th to 713th and 716th meeting, between 27 February and 3 March 1980.

137. Under item 5 (b), the Commission had before it a report of the ILO on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/631); a report of UNESCO on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/632); a report of FAO on its activities of special interest to women and development (E/CN.6/628); and a report of WHO on its activities of special interest to women and development (E/CN.6/629).

138. At the 711th meeting, the representative of ILO introduced that organization's report (E/CN.6/631), summarizing its principal aspects. At the 712th and 713th meetings, a number of representatives expressed their satisfaction with the valuable work of the ILO. One noted her Government's support of the activities of ILO and its concern over the dangerous trend toward an increased proportion of women engaged in part-time and seasonal work, particularly in the tertiary sector. This resulted in their becoming second-class workers, and hence second-class citizens. Governments should take the lead in introducing measures designed to bring about an expansion in the numbers of women at higher grades. Women's participation in trade unions was of major importance.

139. At the 716th meeting, the representative of UNESCO introduced that organization's report (E/CN.6/632). At the 712th and 713th meetings, several representatives had commented upon UNESCO's programme. One pointed out that too much emphasis had been given to the cultural, artistic and literary activities of women, and not enough to the implications for women of development in certain sciences, notably in medicine and psychology. Attention should be given also to problems faced by women employed in scientific work. Another representative called for a much greater emphasis on, and consequently a dramatic increase in resources for, programmes designed to improve the status of women, although current pilot programmes were valuable and should be extended. The role of mass media should receive greater attention, given its enormous potential in improving the status of women.

140. At the 712th meeting, the representative of FAO introduced that organization's report (E/CN.6/628), emphasizing the greatly expanded interest in rural women, since the three conferences on population, food and women held in 1974 and 1975. Inclusion of the topic of women and rural development at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development was noted, and the programme of work in this field endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/14.

141. A number of representatives drew attention to the importance of resolving the problems of rural women, and one noted the extreme situation in her country which had resulted from the very high proportion of adult males who had migrated to adjacent countries.

142. At the 711th meeting, the representatives of WHO introduced the report of that organization (E/CN.6/629). The multisectoral approach was explored, particularly in reference to recent initiatives in the African region; close relationships with other bodies in the United Nations system were emphasized. One representative pointed out that, although the needs of mothers were of great importance, it was perhaps necessary to increase emphasis upon older women, disabled women, women suffering from mental illness and battered women. The problems of single heads of households, and that of female circumcision merited greater attention, as did the dangers for women of smoking.

143. Many representatives expressed their appreciation of the substantial work achieved by the specialized agencies. One noted that the good working relations which existed between the United Nations and the specialized agencies was one of the most valuable results of the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women. It was an example that should be followed by Governments in bringing about at national level close co-ordination between the work of women's units and sectoral departments. Several representatives regretted the absence of a comprehensive review of the activities of all bodies within the United Nations system of organizations. It was considered important that specialized agencies should participate fully in preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women and participate in the drafting of a programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women. A report of their activities to the Conference should consist of a single comprehensive document, which should be concise and designed for use by readers unfamiliar with the United Nations system.

(c) Activities of intergovernmental organizations
outside the United Nations system

144. The Commission considered agenda item 5 (c) at its 713th meeting on 28 February 1980.

145. Under item 5 (c), the Commission had before it a report on the activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (E/CN.6/630). The President of the Inter-American Commission of Women made a statement introducing that report. She stressed the need for improvement of the data base and the development of appropriate indicators of women's status. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that the Inter-American Commission was the first intergovernmental organization concerned with the status of women. It had brought the issue to the attention of the League of Nations.

146. A representative described to the Commission the activities of European intergovernmental organizations. Direct elections to the European Parliament, held in June 1979, had increased women's representation to 17 per cent. An ad hoc committee would complete, by July 1980, a listing of recommendations on the status of women. Three directives had been issued: on equal pay, equal treatment and equality of treatment within social security systems. Member Governments that had not implemented these directives within two months might be brought before the European Court of Justice. As part of the renegotiation of the Lomé Convention, articles concerning equal treatment had been considered. At the Council of Europe an ad hoc committee on women's problems had begun the study of particularly difficult problems faced by women in member countries, notably as a result of

international migration. The difficulties faced by second generation immigrants, girls and women, were being given special attention. The Council of Europe's ad hoc committee was examining the legal situation of unmarried couples, violence within the family and sexual violence. The representatives of the European Community assured the Commission that it hoped to co-operate fully with the United Nations system, particularly by contributing to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1980.

147. The Commission noted with interest the activities of the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers. A Nordic equality committee had been established to co-ordinate and support national efforts. Moreover, the Nordic countries had presented a joint working paper on women and development as their contribution to preparation of the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade.

Consideration of draft resolutions and voting

148. At the 719th meeting, the representative of Lesotho, on behalf also of Ghana, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria and Uganda, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Welfare of female migrant workers and the wives of migrant workers" (E/CN.6/L.749).

149. At the 720th meeting, the representative of Lesotho made the following oral revisions to the text: the fourth preambular paragraph was amended by adding, immediately following the words "of rural women", the words "from developing countries"; the second operative paragraph was amended by adding, immediately following the words "of migrant workers", the words "from developing countries, particularly those".

150. At the same meeting, on 5 March 1980, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 1 (XXVIII); see also chap. IX below).

151. At the 719th meeting, the representative of India, on behalf also of Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Trinidad and Tobago, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: institutions responsible for implementing the World Plan of Action at the international and regional levels" (E/CN.6/L.751). Subsequently, Malaysia withdrew as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

152. The representative of the United States proposed the amendment of operative paragraph 3 (a) by adding immediately following the phrase "and specialized agencies" the words "and regional commissions". The observer from Austria proposed the amendment of operative paragraph 3 (b) by adding immediately following the phrase "and technical resources" the words "on a regular basis".

153. At the 720th meeting, the representative of India introduced the following oral revisions: operative paragraph 1 was amended by adding, immediately following the words "in their reports" the words "to the Commission on the Status of Women"; operative paragraph 3 (a) was amended by replacing the first word, "establishment", by the word "strengthening"; by deleting, immediately following the words "specialized agencies", the words "wherever they do not already exist"; and by deleting, immediately following the words "and activities", the words "and the

strengthening of existing mechanisms". In addition, the representative of India confirmed the oral revision made at the 719th meeting to this subparagraph, whereby it was amended by adding, immediately following the words "specialized agencies", the words "and regional commissions". She also confirmed the oral revision introduced at the 719th meeting of paragraph 3 (b), whereby it was amended by adding immediately following the words "and technical resources", the words "on a regular basis". The representative of India also added an operative paragraph, reading as follows: "Urges the specialized agencies and the United Nations bodies to increase their co-ordination and co-operation using the interagency programme for the Decade for Women and the Advancement of Women Branch as effective mechanisms". The representative of Ghana proposed the amendment of paragraph 3 (a) by replacing, immediately after the words "United Nations bodies", the word "and" by a comma.

154. The representative of Bulgaria asked that the opinion of the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, given in response to his question on this matter, that nothing in this draft resolution had financial implications, be included in the report of the meeting.

155. At the 721st meeting, the representative of India accepted the oral revision move by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago at the 720th meeting to operative paragraph 3 (a) whereby the first word, as revised, "strengthening" should be further revised and replaced by the words "increasing the effectiveness".

156. At the same meeting, on 5 March 1980, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VI).

157. At the 719th meeting, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf also of Lesotho, Niger, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Year of Disabled Persons" (E/CN.6/L.758). Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, France, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Pakistan, United States of America and Zaire became sponsors.

158. The representative of Nigeria made the following oral revisions to the text: the first preambular paragraph was deleted; the second preambular paragraph was amended by deleting, immediately following the word "Recalling", the word "the"; the third preambular paragraph was amended by adding, immediately before the word "Recalling", the word "Further" and by deleting, immediately following the word "Recalling" the word "the"; the fourth preambular paragraph was amended by replacing, immediately following the word "Recalling" the word "the" by the word "also"; and the fifth preambular paragraph was amended by replacing the word "Considering" by the word "Conscious". The third operative paragraph was orally amended by replacing the words "Calls upon the Secretariat" by the words "Invites the Executive Secretary".

159. At the 719th meeting, on 4 March 1980, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. IX, resolution 2 (XXVIII)).

160. At the 721st meeting, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf also of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations activities: Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women" (E/CN.6/L.764). Subsequently, Belgium, India and Japan became sponsors.

161. At the same meeting the representative of Finland proposed the revision of the text by inserting a new operative paragraph between operative paragraphs 2 and 3: "Also encourages Governments, where appropriate, to formulate as part of their development co-operation policies, guidelines for the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women;". The representative of the United States, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, revised operative paragraph 4, by deleting, immediately following the words "the resources of the Fund", the words "for activities that assist rural women and poor women in urban areas, in developing countries". The representative of Bulgaria proposed that operative paragraph 5 should be revised by replacing the word "Appeals" by the word "Urges".

162. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that she had reservations concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution.

163. At the same meeting, on 5 March 1980, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised, by 24 votes to none, with 4 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VII).

164. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago, in explanation of her abstention, observed that her delegation was not convinced of the utility of the new operative paragraph introduced between operative paragraphs 2 and 3.

165. The representative of Bulgaria, in explanation of his abstention, explained that his delegation had reservations concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution, as had been expressed by the Bulgarian delegation in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

166. At the 721st meeting, the representative of France, on behalf also of Austria and Japan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Continuation of the integrated reporting system on the status of women during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980-1985" (E/CN.6/L.765). India, Pakistan and the United States of America subsequently became sponsors of the draft resolution.

167. At the same meeting the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany proposed an amendment to the sixth preambular paragraph, replacing, immediately following the words "in the maintenance of", the word "a" by the words "the existing". The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced an amendment to operative paragraph 2 by g, immediately after the words "to ensure", the words "within the framework of the regular budget". The representative of the United States of America proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 3 by replacing, immediately after the words "and on its work", the words "of co-ordinating the programmes" by the words "aimed at follow-up and harmonization of activities".

168. At the same meeting, on 5 March 1980, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VIII).

V. INFLUENCE OF THE MASS COMMUNICATION MEDIA ON
ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND MEN
IN PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY /agenda item 6/

169. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 715th to 719th and 722nd meetings on 29 February and 3 to 5 March 1980. It had before it the report of the Special Rapporteur, Esmeralda Arboleda Cuevas, on the influence of the mass communication media on attitudes towards the roles of women and men in present-day society (E/CN.6/627).

170. Introducing the report, the Special Rapporteur explained that the Commission on the Status of Women had been the first body of the United Nations to realize and act upon the importance of the influence of communications made on the role of women in society, and in 1972 had asked the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on this matter. 40/ Subsequently, in 1974, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the twenty-sixth session of the Commission; 41/ the item was further discussed at the World Conference of the International Women's Year at Mexico City in 1975. 42/ Because of the increasing importance of the issue and the fact that the media has exerted varying influences on contemporary society (in terms for example of setting of standards, the allocation of values and stereotyping, of the woman's image), there was recognition that systematic study needed to be undertaken in order to understand better both the problems and opportunities in this regard. This led to a second report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/601 and Corr.1) which took into account the recommendations of the Conference, Council and Commission.

171. UNESCO, in fact, sponsored a meeting on this subject as a follow-up to the Mexico City Conference of 1975, and the Commission on the Status of Women, at its twenty-sixth session in 1976, recommended that the Economic and Social Council appoint a special rapporteur, taking into account the close relationship between the economic and social aspects of development, and the necessity for promoting the full integration of women into the development process, to prepare a study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of men and women, including action taken by the public and private sectors at national, regional and international levels, to remove prejudices and sex-role stereotyping, to accelerate the acceptance of women's new and expanded roles in society and to promote their integration into the development process as equal partners with men. The information for this study was to be drawn, inter alia, from studies on

40/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/5109), chap. VIII, sect. A.

41/ E/CN.6/581.

42/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. IV.

this subject to be undertaken by relevant research institutes, from seminars to be organized for this purpose, as well as from other studies undertaken during this period. 43/

172. The Special Rapporteur, however, explained that the report did not purport to be conclusive, but at best, should be seen as only one of the initiatives towards the goal to be achieved, which must be followed by additional research and activities including seminars, workshops and related training activities. The Special Rapporteur stated that the study was hampered by substantial difficulties in obtaining both administrative and field support. Approximately one year and a half passed from the time that the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2063 (LXII) approving the appointment of the Special Rapporteur before she was appointed, with substantial curtailments in the original work programme envisaged by both the Commission and the Council. For example, the seminars to be organized for this purpose and the related research work were eliminated because of financial constraints. However, the Special Rapporteur, having been the representative of Colombia on the Commission on the Status of Women from 1969 to 1972, was convinced of the necessity to undertake the study. In this context, she explained that, having been appointed in her independent capacity she was given freedom to pursue her research. She especially thanked member States who had replied to the questionnaire which she had designed, distributed and analysed for the study, the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations, which housed the project, and UNESCO which had provided financial support for the services of a technical assistant who had rendered invaluable contributions to this project.

173. In conclusion, the Special Rapporteur provided an overview of the contents of the study which was divided into five chapters:

- I. A brief history of United Nations efforts
- II. Pervasive social obstacles maintaining image-stereotyping
- III. Measures taken by Governments
- IV. Action taken by non-governmental organizations
- V. Recommendations for policy actions.

174. The Special Rapporteur concluded by explaining that the study was designed to fill a gap in the existing research being undertaken on this question, and to produce a valid set of guidelines for adoption and policy planning to serve as a firm basis for world-wide sectoral and intersectoral projects in this field. From the standpoint of both research as well as a programme of action, she expressed the hope that the survey of measures undertaken by governmental, intergovernmental (especially of the United Nations family and its regional commissions) and non-governmental organizations would help to bring into public view this over-all question.

43/ Pursuant to the decision adopted by the Commission at its resumed twenty-sixth session (see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5909-E/CN.6/608), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IX), the Council adopted resolution 2063 (LXII) of 12 May 1977 which formally culminated the efforts leading to the drafting of the report of the Special Rapporteur.

175. In response, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur for her comprehensive report, particularly in view of the substantial difficulties with which she had been faced in obtaining both administrative and field support. Furthermore, many representatives proposed that the report be forwarded to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, for its consideration. Several representatives stated that the report assumed particular importance in view of the concurrent release of the report of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems. That Commission was constituted by UNESCO as a result of pressure from several countries to study communications problems. However, one representative pointed out that, while the Commission itself had completed its work and submitted its recommendations, it was, with the exception of one member from Canada, an all-male Commission and had produced only one general resolution dealing with the communication needs of women. Consequently, several representatives felt that the Commission could draw several lessons from that experience and should note the importance of the Special Rapporteur's report in that connexion. Several representatives called for increased co-operation between the United Nations and the UNESCO in this field and noted with interest that, under the co-sponsorship of both organizations, a seminar is to be convened in May 1980, in New York, on the question of "Women and the Media", and expressed the hope that the report of the Special Rapporteur would serve as a major contribution at that seminar.

176. Most representatives noted the crucial importance of education, especially at the primary and secondary levels, to counter the image-stereotyping which has traditionally portrayed women as inferior to men in many spheres of modern life. In this context, many representatives called for a new image of women and men to be reflected in the educational planning and programming at these levels, as well as for increased professional education to train more women in the field of communications. Furthermore, many representatives supported the idea of establishing monitoring agencies in all member States to follow up the over-all question of the influence of the mass media on attitudes towards the roles of women and men in present-day society. In this regard, one representative concluded that until now, the world had changed women and now it was time for women to change the world, and that the mass communications media could provide a fresh image for both women and men and serve as a dynamic vehicle for change. Several representatives called for increased efforts to promote greater awareness among women of the structure and function of national and international institutions in this regard, and how to have access to them and to influence their decision-making systems.

177. In that connexion, many representatives indicated that research had clearly proved the strong link between the image of women in the mass media and the degree of their participation (or lack of it) in the decision-making processes of the mass communication industries. One representative, citing paragraph 85 of the report of the Special Rapporteur, noted that one of the newspapers in Ghana had recently made changes in its publications policy on the roles of women and men in contemporary society, but had not indicated that a woman had recently been appointed as its editor-in-chief. Most representatives concluded that until the participation of women in the decision-making process of the mass communications industries was increased substantially, the media would continue to be a part of the problem rather than a part of the solution.

178. The representative of UNESCO stated that that organization was the specialized agency in the United Nations family concerned with the development

of communications systems, and was therefore directly concerned with the media. She stated that UNESCO had not been invited to comment on the draft of the report of the Special Rapporteur, although this had been part of an agreed procedure, and consequently was obliged to reserve her right to comment and suggest amendments on it until the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. She concluded by offering copies of a recent UNESCO publication entitled Portrayal and Participation of Women in the Media, and said that UNESCO was paying special attention in its work to the image of women as reflected in school text books and children's publications.

179. The Commission also heard comments by the representatives of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and the International Council of Women (non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Category I), and the World Women's Christian Temperance Union (Category II), who expressed their support of the report of the Special Rapporteur and their intention to disseminate it widely among their respective national affiliates.

180. Concerning the recommendations for policy actions (chap. V of the report), there was a difference of opinion in the Commission regarding the degree of Government control of the media to present a new positive image of women in contemporary society. A number of representatives argued that Government intervention on this question would lead to a restriction of press and media, but they underlined the need for Governments to finance and support the production of films, television and radio programmes, newspapers and magazines to advance the role and status of women in contemporary society. They argued, however, that this did not give the Government the right to dictate the content of those programmes and articles. On the other hand, several representatives argued that it was only the Government which could redress the imbalance and inequities in this regard at the national level.

181. However, many representatives cited cases from their respective national experiences that substantiated the points made in chapter II of the report ("Pervasive Social Obstacles Maintaining Image-Stereotyping") and called for non-governmental, governmental and inter-governmental (especially the United Nations family) efforts to more effectively monitor the influence of the mass media in this regard and to promote a new and more affirmative image of women in modern society. Some representatives cited gaps in the reports in this context. One representative argued that the study was not based on sufficient references from the Eastern European region, and thus the study did not present a realistic image of women in this area. Another representative thought the report should take more of an in-depth analysis of the socio-cultural roots of both the problems and opportunities of the mass communications media - especially in developing regions such as Africa. Another representative cited the weight of thousand-year-old feudal tradition in her Asian country and stated that vestiges of male chauvinism were still noticeable in all aspects of life. Several representatives concluded that if these and related gaps could be filled, the study would be greatly strengthened.

Consideration of draft resolution and voting

182. The Commission considered draft resolutions on item 6 of its agenda at its 719th and 722nd meetings on 4 and 5 March 1980. The representative of France, on behalf also of Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Honduras, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Influence of the mass communication media on attitudes towards the role of women and men in present-day society" (E/CN.6/L.754). The representative of France stated that another draft resolution on the same subject had been submitted by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany (E/CN.6/L.760) and that it would be merged with the draft resolution she had just introduced (E/CN.6/L.754). A revised text would be submitted to the Commission at the next meeting.

183. Subsequently, at its 722nd meeting, on 5 March 1980, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, on behalf also of Austria, 44/ Belgium, Colombia, France, Ghana, Honduras, 44/ Japan, Lesotho, Niger, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.754/Rev.1). In his introductory statement, he indicated that the penultimate preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2 had been deleted by the sponsors.

184. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.754/Rev.1); providing for the addition of the following text after the words "Special Rapporteur": "after appropriate revision in the light of the comments made at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women".

185. The representative of Pakistan proposed that in the last preambular paragraph the word "traditional" should be replaced by the word "stereotyped".

186. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, on behalf of the sponsors of the revised draft resolution, accepted the amendments proposed by the representatives of the USSR and Pakistan.

187. The Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.754/Rev.1) at its 722nd meeting, on 5 March 1980 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IX).

44/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional Commissions (E/5979).

VI. COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS
OF WOMEN /agenda item 7/

188. Pursuant to the final paragraph of Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), entitled "Communications concerning the status of women" of 5 August 1947, which the Council suggested "to the Commission on the Status of Women that it should at each session appoint an ad hoc committee to meet shortly before its next session for the purpose of reviewing the confidential list of communications prepared by the Secretary-General ... and of recommending which of these communications, in original, should ... be made available to members of the Commission on request", the Commission on the Status of Women, at its 716th meeting on 3 March 1980, appointed an Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications consisting of the following five representatives: Clarriette G. Wilmot (Ghana), Y. B. Datin Norlaily Aziz (Malaysia), María Guadalupe Carías (Honduras), T. N. Nikolayeva (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Margaret Galey (United States of America).

189. In addition to Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), the Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications used as its terms of reference Economic and Social Council resolution 48 (IV), entitled "Status of women" of 29 March 1947, in which, in paragraph 1, the Council resolved that "the Commission shall also make recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights with the object of implementing the principle that men and women shall have equal rights, and to develop proposals to give effect to such recommendations"; and draft resolution X, "Communications concerning the status of women", adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session in 1976, which in paragraph 2 established "an ad hoc working group to meet during the regular session of the Commission on the Status of Women to review such communications in private, having due regard to maintaining the confidentiality of individual communications, for the purpose of studying information helpful to the Commission in fulfilling its terms of reference under Council resolution 48 (IV) of 29 March 1947, in the field of women's rights".

190. In that regard, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications considered item 7 of the agenda in private meetings on 3 and 4 March 1980. It had before it three documents: (a) a confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (S.W. Communications List No. 19 of 16 January 1980); (b) a non-confidential list of communications (E/CN.6/CR.25 of 21 January 1980); (c) a note by the Secretariat "Relevant resolutions and procedures dealing with communications concerning human rights and the status of women" (E/CN.6/XXVIII/CRP.8 of 21 February 1980).

191. The Commission considered in plenary meeting item 7 of its agenda at its 722nd meeting on 5 March 1980. It had before it the same three documents used by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications.

192. Introducing this documentation reviewed at the 722nd meeting of the Commission, the Assistant Director, of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs responsible for the Advancement of Women Branch, cited

the pertinent paragraphs in Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V) regarding confidential communications concerning the status of women and pertinent paragraphs in Economic and Social Council resolution 304 I (XI) of 17 July 1950, which amended Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V) of 5 August 1947. The Assistant Director concluded her introduction by reviewing the developments on this issue during the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women, from 1975-1980, and noted that the confidential list of communications (S.W. Communications List No. 19) had been distributed in a sealed envelope to the heads of each delegation to the Commission in a private meeting in the Chairman's office immediately following the 715th meeting of the Commission on 29 February 1980 pursuant to operative subparagraph (b) of Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Economic and Social Council resolution 304 (XI).

193. The representative of Honduras, on behalf of the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications, gave an oral report of the proceedings and conclusions of the Group, stating that the Group had taken due note of the contents of the confidential communications and had informed their respective regional groups of the issues raised in the review of this list.

Consideration of draft resolutions and voting

194. Subsequently, at the 722nd meeting, on 5 March 1980, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf also of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Nigeria and Panama, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Communications on the status of women" (E/CN.6/L.759). The representative of the United States of America stated that for over 30 years the Commission has had the authority to consider communications concerning the status of women under Economic and Social Council resolutions 76 (V) and 304 I (XI), and expressed the view that consideration of communications during the United Nations Decade for Women took on added importance because of concern on the part of Member States that the international standards set forth in the various international conventions on human rights and, in particular, women's rights should be observed by Governments. However, the representative of the United States of America observed that the basic rights and freedoms set forth in these international instruments were not always observed throughout the world - as documented in the reports of the Secretariat on the confidential and non-confidential communications that had demonstrated that there were numerous allegations of abuses of these rights. With regard to the more serious allegations, this representative recalled General Assembly resolution 34/175 sponsored by Uganda and adopted by consensus, urged inter alia that appropriate "United Nations bodies ... take timely and effective action in existing and future cases of mass and flagrant violations of human rights". In conclusion, this representative stated that women whose rights were violated should have the expectation that an international remedy was available when domestic remedies had either been exhausted or were not available, and therefore the procedures of the Commission on the Status of Women to discuss these allegations were vital and should be strengthened to highlight abuses of women's rights - indeed to provide a mechanism for investigating allegations of violations that appeared in such documents as the Secretariat had prepared for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.

195. Subsequently, the representatives of Belgium, Guatemala, Lesotho, Norway, Senegal, Uganda and the United Kingdom, and the observer for the Ivory Coast requested that the names of their delegations be associated with draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759 as sponsor.

196. The representative of Bulgaria stated that his country attached great importance to the issues of human rights and fundamental freedoms but was convinced that the promotion and protection of these rights could best be applied through strict compliance in domestic jurisdictions of the norms and standards set by existing international instruments. In this context, he mentioned the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and noted that several of the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759 had not yet ratified these existing international instruments, and indeed had not reflected the principles of these covenants and conventions explicitly in the draft resolution. He concluded by appealing to the sponsors to withdraw the draft resolution.

197. The representatives of Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Poland, associated their delegations with the views of the representative of Bulgaria and the representative of Cuba added the additional argument that the inclusion of item 7 in the agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women was a duplication of procedures established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) which referred to communications on violations of human rights from the perspective of both men and women.

198. Exercising the right of reply, the representative of the United States of America stated: (a) that the issues before the Commission was not to open a substantive debate concerning the existing international instruments and who had ratified them (for then one could get into an even more extensive debate regarding who, indeed, had implemented them), but to respond to a procedural question on how the Commission might best handle the communications concerning the status of women and to convene a Group of Experts to study this problem, including review of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), and to report back to the twenty-ninth session of the Commission; (b) that the draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759 did, in fact, reflect the principles of the covenants and conventions mentioned by one representative (see the second and fourth preambular paras. which referred to resolutions of the General Assembly which themselves were based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its related covenants and conventions), and he recalled that the representative of the United States of America when introducing the item had cited General Assembly resolution 34/175 which also reflected the principles of the human rights covenants and conventions.

199. The representative of the United States of America, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced four revisions to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759, whereby the sixth preambular paragraph would be revised as follows: (a) by adding the word "above-mentioned" so that the beginning of the paragraph would read "Aware that the Committee to be established under the above mentioned Convention ..."; (b) by replacing the words "is not authorized" by "will not be authorized"; and

(c) by revising the words "non-States parties" to read "States not parties". He concluded with an amendment to the single operative paragraph of E/CN.6/L.759, eliminating the text beginning with the phrase: "to be applied by the Commission ...", and substituting the following: "and report to the Commission at its twenty-ninth session".

200. Subsequently, the observer for Austria proposed a further amendment to the operative paragraph of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759 by inserting the phrase "which, meeting at the seat of the United Nations at Vienna, is ..." after the phrase "... of the Council," and before the phrase "... to study procedures for dealing with communications relating to the status of women ...". The amendment by Austria was accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

201. The Secretary of the Commission made a statement concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution (see annex IV).

202. The representative of Bulgaria then requested a vote by roll-call.

203. At its 722nd meeting, on 5 March 1980, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759, as orally revised, by 17 votes to 5, with 6 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution X). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Lesotho, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Senegal, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: China, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago.

204. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in explanation of her vote against, cited three specific reasons therefor: (a) there was no legal foundation which permitted the Commission on the Status of Women to consider these communications since Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) did not allow the Commission to take up this item on its agenda; (b) the Economic and Social Council itself has not yet taken a decision on this matter vis-à-vis the Commission on the Status of Women; and (c) there were financial implications to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759 which her delegation could not support.

205. The representative of Finland, in explanation of her vote in favour of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759, reiterated the position of those delegations who had supported the draft resolution, emphasizing that the procedures of the Commission on the Status of Women for considering such communications should be strengthened and that the ad hoc group of experts which would be convened (under the operative para. of this draft resolution) would indeed take into account the procedures of the Commission on Human Rights to deal with communications and in particular study Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

206. In addition, under item 7 of the agenda, the Commission considered two other draft resolutions which related to the substance of issues raised in the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (S.W. Communications List No. 19).

207. The representative of France introduced a draft resolution entitled: "Fundamental freedoms guaranteed to individuals" (E/CN.6/L.761).

208. Subsequently, Ghana, Japan, Lesotho, Peru, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States of America became sponsors of the draft resolution.

209. The representative of Bulgaria argued that his delegation objected to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.761 for the same reasons that his delegation had voted against draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759. He requested that a roll-call vote be taken.

210. At the same meeting, on 5 March 1980, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/L.761 by 18 votes to 4, with 7 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution XI). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Lesotho, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: China, Cuba, India, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Pakistan.

211. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in explanation of her vote, stated that it was not based on the substance of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.761, but on the procedural question of including item 7 "Communications concerning the status of women" on the agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission. As she had explained in reference to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759, her vote against draft resolution E/CN.6/L.761 was based on the same procedural argument.

212. Subsequently, the representative of France, at the same meeting, introduced a draft resolution entitled: "Communications concerning the status of women" (E/CN.6/L.762) especially regarding the conditions in which women are detained in the process of being prosecuted, indicted or imprisoned. The representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Lesotho, Peru, Senegal and the United States of America and the observers from Portugal and Spain announced that they would sponsor draft resolution E/CN.6/L.762.

213. The representative of Bulgaria stated that the United Nations Committee on Crime Prevention and Control was concerned with this question, and no specific mandate had been given to the Commission on the Status of Women to deal with this issue. He subsequently requested a roll-call vote on draft resolution E/CN.6/L.762.

214. At the same meeting, on 5 March 1980, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/L.762 by 18 votes to 4, with 7 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution XII). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Lesotho, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: China, Cuba, India, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Pakistan.

VII. PROGRAMME OF WORK, INCLUDING DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
/agenda item 8/

215. The Commission considered agenda item 8 at its 722nd meeting, on 5 March 1980. It had before it the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981; 45/ the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983; 46/ a note by the Secretary-General containing a draft provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/640); and a note by the Secretariat entitled "Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" (E/CN.6/641).

216. The Assistant Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs drew attention to the principal elements of the proposed programme budget and the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983, and described the documentation to be prepared by the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in connexion with each.

Draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-ninth
session of the Commission on the Status of Women

217. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/640) containing the following draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-ninth session

1. Election of officers

/Legislative authority: rule 15 of the rules of procedure of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5979)/

2. Adoption of the agenda

/Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, rules 5 and 7 of the rules of procedure (E/5975)/

3. Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action

/Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 3490 (XXX); Economic and Social Council resolution 2060 (LXII)/

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

45/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. I, pp. 240-243.

46/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/33/6/Rev.1), vol. IV, pp. 274-282.

4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

/Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 34/180/

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council and transmitted by the Secretary-General for the information of the Commission

5. Participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination

/Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 32/142 and 34/158 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29/

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

6. Measures taken to implement the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women by organizations within the United Nations system and by intergovernmental organizations

/Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolutions 48 B (IV), 154 F (VII), 821 IV B (XXXII) and 1978/34/

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations activities during the period 1980-1981

Report of the ILO on its activities of special interest to women

Report of UNESCO on its activities of special interest to women

Report of FAO on its activities of special interest to women

Report of WHO on its activities of special interest to women

Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women

Report of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women

7. Condition of women and children

/Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 3318 (XXX), 34/24 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1687 (LII)/

Documentation

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and children living under racist minority régimes, and of women and children living in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories

Report of the Secretary-General on the condition of women and children in emergency and armed conflict

8. Communications concerning the status of women

/Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolutions 76 (V) and 304 (XI)/

Documentation

A non-confidential list containing a brief summary of communications which deal with the principles relating to the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields

A confidential list of other communications concerning the status of women

9. Effect of transnational corporations on the status of women in southern Africa

/Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/33/

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

10. Programme of future work, including a draft provisional agenda for the thirtieth session

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session

218. A number of representatives requested clarification in respect of agenda item 5 of the draft annotated provisional agenda. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs explained that the Commission, in its discussion of agenda item 4 of the present session, had adopted the resolution contained in document E/CN.6/639, which brought before the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly the matter of a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination. However, that had not precluded the continuing study of the matter in itself, and consequently, on the basis of the legislative authorities provided by General Assembly resolutions 32/142 and 34/158 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29, it remained one which the Commission might wish to examine at its twenty-ninth session

219. The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested that the Commission vote to retain agenda item 5 of the draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-ninth session. The representative of Senegal requested that, prior to giving its attention to the request of the Union of Soviet Socialist

Republics, the Commission should vote on his proposal to delete that agenda item. On the basis of part 2 of rule 65 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, a vote was taken on whether or not to give priority to voting on the proposal of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. By a vote of 17 to 8, with 3 abstentions, it was decided not to give priority to that proposal. The representative of Senegal then requested that the Commission vote on his proposal by a roll-call vote.

220. The Commission adopted by 18 votes to 8, with 3 abstentions, the proposal by Senegal that item 5 be deleted from the draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission, as set out in document E/CN.6/640. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Lesotho, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, India, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: China, Honduras, Pakistan.

221. The representative of Czechoslovakia requested a roll-call vote on her proposal that item 8 be deleted from the draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission, as set out in document E/CN.6/640.

222. The Commission rejected the proposal of Czechoslovakia by a vote of 17 to 9, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, India, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Against: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Lesotho, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Senegal, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: China, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago.

223. The representative of Belgium introduced an additional item to be included in the draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-ninth session on the condition of migrant women and children. After several representatives expressed themselves as satisfied that agenda item 7, on the condition of women and children, referred to certain very specific but different matters, it was suggested that the matter proposed by the representative of Belgium should be a separate agenda item.

224. By 21 votes to none, with 8 abstentions, the Commission, at its 722nd meeting approved the provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session and recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it should be approved (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

225. Before the vote, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics asked that her reservations concerning the draft provisional annotated agenda be

included in the report of the meeting. The representative of Bulgaria expressed reservations concerning the revised draft provisional annotated agenda for the reason of the exclusion from it of the agenda item on participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and for the reason of the retention of agenda item 8. Because of its reservations on these points her delegation would abstain from the vote. The representatives of Cuba and Iraq expressed the same reservations.

226. After the vote, the representative of Czechoslovakia explained that her abstention reflected the very great disappointment of her delegation that the agenda item on participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace had been excluded. The representative of China explained that, although her delegation had voted in favour of the revised draft provisional agenda, it had reservations concerning inclusion of agenda item 8, and asked that these be noted in the report of the meeting. The representative of the German Democratic Republic explained that his delegation had abstained because of its reservations concerning exclusion of the agenda items on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and the retention of agenda item 8. The representatives of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, India and Iraq explained that their abstention reflected the same reservations. The representative of Pakistan explained that although her delegation had voted in favour of approval of the draft provisional annotated agenda as a whole, it had reservations concerning retention of draft agenda item 8. The representatives of Finland and Ghana explained that their delegations had voted in favour also but that they had reservations concerning the new item 5 of the revised draft provisional agenda, as this matter would be before the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly prior to the twenty-ninth session of the Commission. They considered that the decisions of those bodies should not be prejudged.

227. At the same meeting, the representative of France, on behalf also of Madagascar, Nigeria and Senegal, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Programme of work, including draft provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission" (E/CN.6/L.763). Subsequently, Honduras, the Ivory Coast, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States were added as sponsors.

228. In respect of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs explained that no report on the application of the Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others had ever been prepared for the Commission since neither the General Assembly nor the Economic and Social Council had ever given a mandate to do so.

229. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago proposed that in operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.763, the word "encouraging" should be replaced by the words "which encourage". She also proposed an amendment to the preamble, adding, after the words, "The Commission on the Status of Women", the following text: "Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution".

230. The representative of France, on behalf of the sponsors, revised operative paragraph 3 by deleting the words "the Economic and Social Council to ask". The representative of Cuba proposed that in operative paragraph 3, the words "programme for the World Conference" should be replaced by "programme of action to be adopted

at the World Conference". The representative of Ghana proposed the deletion of the word "chief" before the word "victims" at the end of operative paragraph 3.

231. The representative of France, on behalf of the sponsors, accepted the proposed amendments.

232. The Commission then adopted the draft resolution E/CN.6/L.763, as revised (see chap. 1, sect. A, draft resolution XIII).

VIII. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
/agenda item 9/

233. The Commission regretted that, within the eight working days allotted, it had not been able to proceed to the consideration of its draft report to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/L.748 and Add.1-9 and Add.13). It therefore, at 11.24 p.m. at its 722nd meeting, on 5 March 1980, decided to entrust to the Rapporteur the preparation of the report in final form.

IX. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
AT ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

234. The following resolutions were adopted by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session:

1 (XXVIII) Welfare of female migrant workers and
wives of migrant workers

For the text, see chap. I, sect. C.

2 (XXVIII) International Year of Disabled Persons

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX) of 9 December 1975
proclaiming the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976,
by which it proclaimed the year 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979,
concerning the activities of the International Year of Disabled Persons and
more specifically the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled
Persons and the consideration of a draft long-term programme of action,

Conscious that among disabled persons women often suffer from double
discrimination and their situation deserves, therefore, special attention,

Considering that the Commission has recommended that specific measures
be envisaged for disabled women within the framework of the programme of action
for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality,
Development and Peace, and more particularly as regards the education of women
in disability prevention,

Taking note with interest of the statement made before the Commission by
the Executive Secretary of the International Year of Disabled Persons,

1. Requests the Secretary-General in implementing the Plan of Action for
the International Year of Disabled Persons adopted by the General Assembly ^{47/}
to ensure that the activities envisaged therein, particularly as regards disability
prevention, give special attention to the situation of women;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United
Nations Decade for Women to convey to the Conference at Copenhagen the concerns

^{47/} See A/34/158 and Corr.1.

of the Commission over the situation of disabled women and its views as regards the special measures which should be envisaged in terms of disability prevention through education of parents in general and young mothers in particular;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary of the International Year of Disabled Persons, in the execution of the Plan of Action for the Year to harmonize its activities, and more particularly the draft long-term programme of action, with the programme of action for the second half of the Decade, so that these activities might mutually reinforce each other.

X. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

235. The Commission on the Status of Women held its twenty-eighth session at the Vienna International Centre, from 25 February to 5 March 1980. The Commission held 17 plenary meetings (706th to 722nd meetings).

236. The session was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The Minister of State for General Women's Affairs of Austria, Johanna Dohnal, addressed the Commission.

Attendance

237. All States members of the Commission were represented. Observers of other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended the session. A complete list is given in annex I to the present report.

238. At its opening meeting (706th meeting), the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:	Helga Hoerz (German Democratic Republic)
Vice-Chairman:	Carmela Aguilar (Peru)
Rapporteur:	Marijke Van Hemeldonck (Belgium)

239. At the 707th meeting the Commission completed its Bureau by electing the following as Vice-Chairmen: M. Morrison (Lesotho) and Gulzar Bano (Pakistan).

Agenda

240. The Commission considered its agenda at its 706th meeting. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/621) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission at its twenty-seventh session. The Commission also had before it a report on the state of preparedness of documentation for the session submitted by the Secretariat in conformity with Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/69 and General Assembly resolution 34/50.

241. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/621.

Organization of work

242. The Commission considered the organization of the work of the session on the basis of a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/L.747). It decided, at its 706th meeting,

to consider the items on its agenda (E/CN.6/621) in the following order: 3, 5, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9. A revised note on the organization of the work of the session was subsequently issued (E/CN.6/L.747/Rev.1) to reflect the decision taken by the Commission in this regard.

Waiver of rule 52

243. At the 720th meeting, on 5 March 1980, the representative of the United States proposed, in accordance with rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions (E/5975), that the 24-hour rule should be waived in respect of all proposals which had been submitted in writing by 6 p.m. on 4 March. The proposal was adopted by 21 votes to none, with 6 abstentions, in a roll-call vote requested by the representative of Bulgaria.

Resolutions and recommendations

244. The draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council are reproduced in chapter I of the present report.

245. The documents before the Commission at the twenty-eighth session are listed in annex V. The administrative and financial implications taken by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session are given in annex IV.

Consultations with non-governmental organizations

246. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975), the observers of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements during the twenty-eighth session:

- Category I: International Council of Women (item 6)
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (item 5)
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
(items 3 and 6)
Women's International Democratic Federation (item 6)
World Federation of Trade Unions (item 3)
World Federation of United Nations Associations (item 3)
- Category II: Bahá'i International Community (items 3 and 6)
St. Joan's International Alliance (item 5)
World Women's Christian Temperance Union (item 6)

247. The statements submitted by non-governmental organizations are listed in annex V.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

Belgium: Marijke Van Hemeldonck; Mr. Doyen;* Mrs. Boeykens*

Bulgaria: Milanka Blagoeva Vidova; Vladamir Zlatinov*

China: Huang Ganying; Ma Yangsheng;* Lin Shangzhen*

Cuba: Olga Finlay Saavedra; Maria Margarita Rodríguez*

Czechoslovakia: Dagmar Molková

Finland: Elina Visuri; Ulla Gyllenberg;* Kirsti Eskelinen*

France: Marcelle Devaud

German Democratic Republic: Helga Hoerz; Heinz Duehring*

Germany, Federal Republic of: Inge Donnep; Marlies Kutsch;* Günther Dahlhoff;*
Marita Estor;* Sieglinde Roser;* Monika Wollski;*
Mr. Busse;* Manfred Gerwinat*

Ghana: Clariette G. Wilmot

Guatemala: Sonia Regina Martinez Mansilla; Miriam Elida Morales Reinoso*

Honduras: María Guadalupe Carías

India: Sheila Kaul; Nirmala Buch;* A. Sreenivas*

Iraq: Manal Younis Abdul Razaq; Sammer Al-Mashat;* Noha Khalil Isma'eel;*
Lahay Abdul Husain*

Japan: Ayako Oba; Ryoko Akamatsu*

Lesotho: M. Morrison; M. Tau*

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: Fatma Hussein Elqabsi; Zakiya El-Sahli*

Madagascar: Liliane Rajaonina

Malaysia: Y. B. Datin Norlaily Aziz; Fauziah Mohd. Taib*

* Alternate.

New Zealand: Colleen Dewe; a/ Helen Fawthorpe;* Marilyn Waring*

Niger: Luisette Alzouma; Mounkaïla Aïssata*

Nigeria: Olajumoke Obafemi; S. N. Okonkwo*

Norway: Liv Aasen; Birgit Schjerven;* Olav Bergthun;* Brit Løvseth*

Pakistan: Gulzar Bano; S. M. Inaam-Ullah*

Panama: Reina Torres de Araúz; Ernesto Koref*

Peru: Carmela Aguilar Ayanz; María Salazar Castellanos;* Liliana de Silva*

Senegal: Cherif Djigo

Trinidad and Tobago: Elmina Clarke-Allen; Lenore Dorset*

Uganda: Lydia Hatega; Christine Sempa;* Hilda Nancy Kayumbula*

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: T. N. Nikolayeva; I. N. Smirnova;* F. N. Strok*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Baroness Trumpington;
T. Spens;* K. Coombs*

United States of America: Koryne Horbal; Barbara J. Good*

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

United Nations Secretariat

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Economic Commission for Latin America

Economic Commission for Africa.

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

* Alternate.

a/ Did not attend.

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Atomic Energy Agency.

Other intergovernmental organization represented by observers

Inter-American Commission of Women (OAS).

Liberation movements

African National Congress of South Africa, Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa)

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Alliance of Women, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), International Federation of Business and Professional Women, League of Red Cross Societies, United Towns Organization, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Category II: Associated Country Women of the World, Bahá'i International Community, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (World Council of Churches), Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, European Insurance Committee, International Association of Educators for World Peace, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of Social Workers, International Federation of University Women, International Prisoners' Aid Association, International Union of Latin Notaries, Soroptimist International Association, St. Joan's International Alliance, Union of Arab Jurists, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Association of World Federalists, World Jewish Congress, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Women's Christian Temperance Union, World Young Women's Christian Association, Zonta International.

Roster: Center of Concern, European Union of Women, Federation of National Committees in the International Christian Youth Exchange, International Board of Co-operation for the Developing Countries (EMCO), International Federation for Home Economics, International Iron and Steel Institute, International Paediatric Association, International PEN, International Progress Organization, International Research Institute for Immigration and Emigration Politics, International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling, International Social Science Council, International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technicians, International Sociological Association, International Studies Association, Movement for a Better World, Population Crisis Committee.

Annex II

AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace:
 - (a) Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action
 - (b) Draft programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1980-1985
 - (c) Women and development and international conferences
 - (d) Preparations for the World Conference
4. The question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination
5. Measures taken to implement the Programme of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace:
 - (a) United Nations activities
 - (b) Activities of specialized agencies
 - (c) Activities of intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system
6. Influence of the mass communication media on attitudes towards the role of women and men in present-day society
7. Communications concerning the status of women
8. Programme of work, including draft provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session

Annex III

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED TO CONSIDER AGENDA
ITEM 4, "THE QUESTION OF ELABORATING A DRAFT DECLARATION ON
THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AGAINST
COLONIALISM, RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AGGRESSION,
OCCUPATION AND ALL FORMS OF FOREIGN DOMINATION"

1. At its 714th meeting on 29 February 1980, the Commission decided to establish a working group to consider item 4, which would report on its deliberations to the plenary. It was further decided that the working group should consist of three members of each of the five groups represented in the Commission and that the Chairman of the working group should be M. Morrison (Lesotho), Vice-Chairman of the Commission. The composition of the group was the following:

African States: Lesotho, Niger and Uganda;

Asian States: China, India and Pakistan;

Latin American States: Cuba, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago;

Socialist States of eastern Europe: Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Western European and other States: Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

2. The Working Group held three meetings on 29 February and 3 March 1980. It decided that its Chairman should also serve as Rapporteur.

3. At its 2nd meeting, the representative of Cuba proposed that the representatives of the African liberation movements be invited to attend the Working Group as observers, and to make statements at the end of the Group's deliberations. The Working Group endorsed this proposal.

4. There was a consensus on the importance of the item under discussion. After some procedural discussion, the Working Group began consideration of a draft resolution submitted by the representative of Uganda, the text of which reads as follows:

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling resolution IV, contained in the report of its twenty-seventh session, recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption and concerning the question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination,

Recalling also resolution 1978/29 of 5 May 1978, of the Economic and Social Council, by which the Commission on the Status of Women was requested to consider at its twenty-eighth session the question of elaborating a draft declaration with a view to submitting it to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council should adopt the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1978/29 of 5 May 1978 and General Assembly resolution 34/158 of 17 December 1979 by which the Commission on the Status of Women was requested to consider the question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination with a view to submitting it to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Taking note of the views and proposals of Governments, specialized agencies and other international intergovernmental organizations, as well as concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, transmitted to the Secretary-General and contained in his report to the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, b/

Taking into account the views expressed at the Commission's twenty-eighth session,

1. Refers to the General Assembly the question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination;

2. Invites the General Assembly to consider this question at its thirty-fifth session.

5. Some delegations felt that the Commission should recommend that the Economic and Social Council should refer the draft declaration to the General Assembly in order that all Member States of the United Nations would have an opportunity to express their views on this question. They considered that the replies had not been received in a sufficient number from Member States to be representative of the views of the membership of the United Nations.

6. Some delegations felt that documents E/CN.6/626 and Add.1 should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly. Several referred to General Assembly resolution 34/158 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29 which requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the question of elaborating a draft declaration on this subject with the view

b/ E/CN.6/626 and Add.1.

to submitting it to the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. The view was expressed that if the draft resolution submitted by Uganda were adopted the Commission would not fulfil its mandate and that the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women would not consider the draft declaration.

7. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany proposed that the first two preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution submitted by Uganda be deleted, and suggested a new wording for the third preambular paragraph. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago suggested that the first preambular paragraph should precede the fourth preambular paragraph of the original text and that the second preambular paragraph be deleted. The Working Group adopted the preamble of the draft resolution, as amended by the Federal Republic of Germany and Trinidad and Tobago.

8. The representative of the German Democratic Republic supported the draft but insisted that the deliberations of the Working Group should be based on documents E/CN.6/626 and Add.1. He stated that in a spirit of co-operation his delegation was in a position to compromise by supporting the draft resolution submitted by Uganda, provided that the words "of elaborating a draft declaration" be deleted from operative paragraph 1. Some delegations were in favour while others opposed this amendment.

9. After further discussion and consultations, the Working Group adopted the two operative paragraphs as originally proposed by Uganda on the understanding that the report of the Working Group would reflect that the representatives of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and the USSR expressed strong reservations to operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of this draft resolution. On this understanding the Working Group adopted the draft resolution submitted by Uganda as a whole.

10. The Working Group also decided that the observations of the African liberation movements should be included in the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council (see chap. III).

11. The Working Group proposes the adoption by the Commission of the following draft resolution:

Question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination

The Commission on the Status of Women,

recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution: (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V).

Annex IV

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY
THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

A. Draft resolution E/CN.6/L.757/Rev.1

Under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the estimated cost of the proposed activities would be \$47,700.

B. Draft resolution E/CN.6/L.759

Under the terms of the operative paragraph of the draft resolution, the estimated cost for the proposed ad hoc group of experts would be \$47,100.

Annex V

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION
AT ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/621 and Corr.1 (Russian only) and E/CN.6/621/Add.1	2	Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session
E/CN.6/622	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/623	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/624	3 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/625	3 (d)	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/626 and Add.1	4	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/627	6	Report of the Special Rapporteur
E/CN.6/628	5 (b)	Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its activities of special interest to women
E/CN.6/629	5 (b)	Report of the World Health Organization on its activities of special interest to women
E/CN.6/630	5 (b)	Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women
E/CN.6/631	5 (b)	Report of the International Labour Organisation on activities of special interest to women

<u>Document number</u> Document number	<u>Agenda</u> item	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/632	5 (b)	Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on activities of special interest to women
E/CN.6/633	5 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/635	5 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/636	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/637 and Corr.1 (English only) and Corr.2	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/638	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/639	4	Report of the Working Group
E/CN.6/640	8	Draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/641	8	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
E/CN.6/INF.31 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and 2		
E/CN.6/L.747	2	Organization of work
E/CN.6/L.748 and Add.1-9 and Add.13		Draft report
E/CN.6/L.749	5	Ghana, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria and Uganda: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.750	3	Australia, Colombia, Finland, India, Lesotho, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway: draft resolution

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/L.751	5	India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Trinidad and Tobago: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.752	3	India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Trinidad and Tobago: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.753	3	Guatemala, Honduras and Peru: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.754	6	Austria, Belgium, Colombia, France, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.754/Rev.1	6	Austria, Belgium, Colombia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Honduras, Japan, Lesotho, Niger, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.755	3	Colombia, Honduras and Peru: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.756	3	United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.757	3	France, Lesotho and Malaysia: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.757/Rev.1	3	China, France, India, Japan, Lesotho, Malaysia, Pakistan and Uganda: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.758	5	Lesotho, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.759	7	Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Nigeria and United States of America: draft resolution

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/L.760	6	Federal Republic of Germany: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.761	7	France: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.762	7	France: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.763	8	France, Madagascar, Niger and Senegal: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.764	5	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.765	5	Austria, France and Japan: draft resolution
E/CN.6/NGO/283 and Add.1	3	Statements submitted by the International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization Consumers Unions (non-governmental organizations in consultative status, Category I). All India Women's Conference, Associated Country Women of the World, Baptist World Alliance, CARE (Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc.), Consultative Committee of Jewish Organizations, Friends World Committee for Consultation, International Association for Religious Freedom International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Social Democratic Women,

Document number

Agenda
item

Title or description

E/CN.6/NGO/283 and Add.1
(continued)

3
(continued)

International Federation of Women Lawyers, International Federation of University Women, International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and People; International Society for Community Development, Pan-Pacific and South-east Asia Women's Association, Servvas International, St. Joan's World International Alliance, Soroptomist International, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Women's Christian Temperance Union, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Young Women's Christian Association, Zonta International (non-governmental organizations in consultative status, Category II); Altrusa International, Inc., NOW (National Organization for Women) and World Education Fellowship (non-governmental organizations in consultative status, Roster)

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